



# The Fantastic Fourth Grade

Ms. Dalton, Ms. Cicale, Ms. Komar,  
Ms. Meduri, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Sconzo



## Parent Newsletter – November 2018

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

#### Literacy:

**Reading** – We are going to be continuing reading the book **Wonder** by RJ Palacio. The students are going to be working on identifying themes throughout the story. Students will also be analyzing the characters throughout the novel. They will be collecting text evidence to support their thesis claims.

**Writing** – Writers will be completing literary essays based on character traits and themes identified in **Wonder**. Students will be working within small groups to locate supportive evidence for their essays. The groups will be recording their evidence and focusing in on specific scenes and dialogue in the book.

#### Math:

Our current chapter focuses on multiplying 2-digit numbers using different strategies. Students will work on using the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems. Students will also work using place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

#### Social Studies:

Students will be learning about the early Native American settlements in New York. They will be learning about the different Native American groups that lived in different parts of New York and about the effects of the geography of New York on the first people who lived there.

#### Science

This month we will be focusing on animal structures and functions. The students will be learning about how body parts are adaptations that help the animals survive. The students are also going to learn about food chains and webs.

#### Technology:

During the month of November, your child will be focusing on both keyboarding and mouse skills, as well as proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools and a Typing Software Program to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed. We will also be continuing to learn about Microsoft Word and how to find information about a topic using online resources.

### What's New in Music and Art?

**Mr. Cintula:** We are continuing our journey of folk music around the world through our textbook series "The Music Connection", grade 4. We will be singing together and solo as well as sample percussion instruments and techniques on various songs.

**Ms. LaMorte:** Students will continue study of soprano recorder, learn new note Low D with new piece and possibly High C with new piece, and discuss/apply "The Blues" with Thanksgiving piece on Barred Instruments and dance.

**Ms. Granatelli:** During the month of November students will explore working with modeling clay.

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

11/6 - Election Day - No School for Students

11/12 - Veteran's Day - No School

11/20 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Thanksgiving Feast

11/22 & 11/23 - Thanksgiving Recess - No School

11/27 - Report Cards Distributed

11/28 - Half Day - 11:20am dismissal

Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:20pm-2:20pm

Evening Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:00pm-8:00pm

#### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please continue to review your child's agenda book each night.
- Please continue to review multiplication and division tables daily.
- Students will be assessed on their times tables regularly.
- Clean out the RED Homework folder after each Chapter Test. Save all Math materials as resources for the NYS Math test.

#### PTA News

-Thank you Panther families for making our 1<sup>st</sup> trunk or treat possible. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.

-Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Pretzels for Panthers sale will be held on Friday, 11/2 during all three lunch periods for \$1 each. Pre-K - 12 are encouraged to participate. Please be reminded that Pretzels for Panthers will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month.

-Thank you to those who have participated in our World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser.

-Please join us on 11/8 for "Pies with the PTA" at 7:00pm for your chance to win a raffle and to discuss more about what's to come for elementary. We will be serving freshly baked pies.

*"We are looking forward to celebrating with our students at the annual feast."*

*-Ms. Dalton, Ms. Cicale, Ms. Komar,  
Ms. Meduri, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Sconzo*

#### A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

November is a month to give thanks! I am so thankful for all of the family members who have supported our children so far this school year. We would like to say a big thank you to our PTA who organized this year's Halloween event "Trunk or Treat" for our Elementary School students.

This month we will be celebrating the importance of reading here at school, but reading at home is very important too. The benefits of independent reading include improved vocabulary, verbal fluency, and enhanced general academic achievement. Please be sure that your child is reading books on their independent reading level provided by their teacher.

One of my favorite quotes from Dr. Seuss is, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you will go." I cannot wait to see all the places our children will go.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ponzi

