

The seasons are definitely changing as the holidays are just around the corner. We have been learning a lot about immigration and sharing about our cultures and traditions. Our study of economy, culminating with students creating businesses coming up quickly. I enjoyed speaking with all of you about your children at parent-teacher conferences. Our conversations were both informative and productive in helping each 4SS student reach their potential! I am looking forward to the many learning opportunities during the upcoming months.



Thanks for your support!

Announcements/Reminders:

- Dec 7 Winter Chorus Concert
- Dec 22 Winter Party
- Dec 22 End of 2nd Quarter
- Dec 23 - Jan 8 Winter Break

- ☆ Be sure to check our class website daily!
- ☆ Please remember that missing work slips area sent home every other week, showing assignments that haven't been turned in yet.
- ☆ All in school snacks should be peanut-free

Reading: We recently finished reading Immigration (a non-fiction anchor text) and Journey to Ellis Island (a historical fiction book) in our unit on journeys. We spent time discussing how people and events have influenced our lives. We are also just beginning to read Fever 1793 (a historical fiction book) and An American Plague (a nonfiction book) to further develop our study on how events of the past have impacted us. We continue working on recognizing features unique to both fiction and nonfiction texts and strategies to help with reading and understanding these texts. Students enjoy having choice in our classroom through Daily 5 activities.

Word Study: At this point in the school year, students have learned 3 syllable types (closed, vc-e, and open) and identified them in multisyllabic words, identified exceptions, and started learning other targeted patterns. Additionally, students are also learning homophones, homographs, and Latin and Greek roots. We continue to have guided instruction on both Monday and Tuesday, activities on Wednesday and Thursday, and our tests on Fridays.

Books We've Read: *Immigration, Journey to Ellis Island, Fever 1793, and An American Plague*

Writing: Students have recently completed their inspiration letters, where they wrote a letter to someone who inspired them. Students are now working on Statue of Liberty research projects. Students will create a poster (using the computer) that includes important facts about the Statue of Liberty, why it's important to Americans, and several illustrations. Students will also write a narrative piece about events and people that have had an impact on their lives. After that short writing piece, students will be researching and writing feature articles on people that have had an impact on the U.S. or the world.

Speaking & Listening: Students are working on realistic fiction book talks. They should be practicing them prior to Dec, 19th. Students speak in front of the class informally as well.

Math (Accelerated): We recently worked on identifying and understanding patterns of the base 10 system and multiplication and division computations with whole numbers and decimals. Students are currently working on making equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting fractions. Our next unit will be on multiplying and dividing fractions. Computations with whole numbers and fractions will also be covered in this unit. Students will also construct and interpret fractional line plots. Students may also do additional enrichment on our learning topics through FrontRow. Our class code is hbfkv4. We have used this in-class as well, but it can also be done to supplement what we're learning. Additionally, students may log on to Prodigy (a game that incorporates our math standards) using their username and password.

Social Studies: We recently finished our unit on the branches of government and cultures and traditions. Currently, we are working on learning about the economy of the United States. Our culminating activity will put each student in charge of his/her own business!

Science: We wrapped up our unit on environments. We finished with studying food chains and food webs and doing an owl pellet dissection. To support this unit, Willowbrook Wildlife Center brought some live birds of prey (including two types of owls) to Owen on October 25th. We will be starting our unit on rocks and minerals soon!

As I reflect on the school year, I feel very fortunate to work with such a supportive parent community and am thankful for the opportunity to work with your children everyday.

-Mr. Sabovik

