4SS's Monthly Newsletter - October 15, 2014

From the Desk of Mr. Sabovik

It's an exciting time in 4SS! We had our first field trip to Graue Mill (thank you Mrs. Sweeney for coming along with us). Students have also begun dissecting owl pellets (thank you Mrs. Hopper and Mrs. Heyl for helping us in the classroom). Our classroom is very much a "working classroom". Students are really beginning to have wonderful learning conversations, are utilizing technology regularly, and are working very hard. We have our first book talks on the horizon and our culture star project is underway. There are many great things happening in 4SS!

Thanks for your support!

Announcements/ Reminders:

Oct. 21 Willowbrook Wildlife Center comes to Owen and picture retakes

Oct. 24 End of 1st quarter

Oct. 31 Report cards available on home access

Nov. 4, 6, 10 Parent/Teacher Conferences

☆ *Be sure to check our class website daily!*

☆ *Please remember that missing work slips are sent home every other week, showing assignments that haven't been turned in yet.*

☆ *Parent letters/emails about your child are DUE!!*

Reading: We recently finished reading Love that Dog (a poetry anchor text) in our unit on journeys. We spent time analyzing how the main character (Jack) changes throughout the story based on events in the story. We are also integrating our unit on journeys with learning about immigration through various nonfiction texts. Students continue to learn reading strategies such as: "back up and re-read" and "monitor and fix up". The students are now utilizing the Daily 5 in our classroom on a regular basis (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work, and work on writing).

Word Study: At this point in the school year, students have learned 3 syllable types (closed, vc-e, and open). Please be advised that all of the spelling lists for the rest of the year are posted on the class website. Additionally, students are also learning homophones, homographs, and Latin roots.

Books We've Read: *Love that Dog, Immigration: Bringing History to Life, Journey to Ellis Island, Leonardo, the Terrible Monster,* and *Mr. Peabody's Apples*

Writing: Fitting in with our theme of journeys, students wrote a friendly letter to someone that they admire. Currently, students are writing about an important event that has changed them. In the near future, students will be researching and writing reports on The Statue of Liberty.

Speaking & Listening: Students are working on their fantasy book talks. They should be practicing them prior to Oct. 27th. Students have also had a few informal speaking opportunities.

Math (Accelerated): We recently worked on adding, subtracting and multiplying whole numbers and decimals. We have started our unit on long division. Students will be dividing whole numbers and decimals through number stories, small group activities, and guided practice. We're also learning various division estimation strategies. We've used some great technology tools to help us in our learning in math. Ask your students about Kahoot and/or Socrative!

Social Studies: We recently completed our unit on maps and globes. We are learning about immigration through language arts and will be starting to learn about the Northeast's environment, resources, economy, people, and culture during the upcoming weeks.

Science: We recently wrapped up our study of crickets and freed our cricket friends into the wild. We've begun to study food chains and food webs. Our owl pellet dissection is a large activity in learning about food chains and webs. To support this unit, Willowbrook Wildlife Center will be bringing some live birds of prey (including owls, falcons, and eagles) to Owen on October 21st!

***Report cards for 4th grade will remain the same as last year, however, this year you can print a report card directly from the Home Access Center. In the upper right corner of the Report Card screen is a new Print button. This will allow you to print an exact copy of the report card that is created in the office. Please use the following link to view screenshots of this process. http://ipsdweb.ipsd.org/Uploads/eschool/Good/08-Printing%20Report%20Cards_3.1.pdf. - Mr. Sabovik