

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News 1-18-20

### What We're Learning:

**Reading:** Since returning from winter break, we have been focusing on reading nonfiction texts about our new social studies unit on the exploration of Washington. Students are getting practice taking notes on a text through a variety of methods. We are currently working on notetaking using the Cornell notes format. Ask your child what this looks like. Once we have determined the big ideas and details of the texts, we have practiced putting these into our own words. We are also learning how to take our notes and summarizing our ideas into paragraph format, which completes the Cornell notes method.

**Writing:** Students are wrapping up their first published version of their opinion essays. We are running into some difficulties with this since we still do not have access to anything that's saved on the district servers. Students have also been introduced to strategies to help them move from opinion essays to persuasive essays. We have practiced restructuring our thesis statements to move from an opinion claim to a persuasive claim. Some students will choose to complete research to move toward a more formal persuasive essay, although, this is not a requirement until 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Math:** We are finally finishing up our unit on multi-digit multiplication and division. 4<sup>th</sup> graders should be able to multiply up to a 4-digit by 1-digit number and a 2-digit by 2-digit number. We've most recently learned how to transfer what we know about the area model to determine where numbers are represented in the standard algorithm. We will be reviewing multiplication and division with the area model, distributive property, place value model, and standard algorithm. Students should now have a strong understanding of one or more of these methods.

**Social Studies:** Our next social studies unit has started by learning about the early European explorers to Washington State. We have talked about the modes of transportation, goals of exploration, and effects on the indigenous populations of Washington. We have also started learning about the role of the fur traders and mountain men and how the fur trade helped shape the west.

### **In Other News:**

**MOHAI:** What a fun trip we had to the museum! It was the first time I had been and it was a great way to kick off our new social studies unit on exploration of Washington. Students enjoyed the guided portion of the day when they looked at different artifacts in depth through different times of Washington history. The iPad integration of the museum tour was also engaging and there were plenty of different exhibits to explore. Thank you again to Kristi, Mina, Karl, and Debbie for joining us!

### **Read At Home:**

The Read At Home Winter Challenge is taking place now! If your child completes and returns the challenge by February 28th, they will get to pick out a new book for free in March from the Apollo PTA! Visit for more information:

<http://apollopta.ourschoolpages.com/Page/Programs/RAH>

**Calendar of Events:** Please refer to my website's homepage, Apollo Rocket E-News, or the [Apollo PTA's website](#) for up-to-date information on upcoming events!