

4th Grade News 10-11-19

What We're Learning:

Reading: In reading we've taken a break this week from our mini lessons on story arc to learn and practice routines that help us run our differentiated groups efficiently. Previously, I gave students access to text passages and questions sets online. While some were successful working on the laptops during this time, many were not yet ready to work independently in groups utilizing the computers. We will be switching over to paper and pencil and I will be working with groups teaching very explicit skills such as how to answer comprehension questions thoroughly, finding and citing text evidence in their answers, and using communication skills to justify their answers and thoughts with their group members.

Writing: We are nearing the end of our realistic fiction unit. Last week, I was able to attend an amazing training regarding writing instruction from author Matt Glover. I learned many new skills to improve my student conferring and I got to try out some new methods with the kids this week. We focused this week on reading published material to determine the type of strategies and craft moves real authors use in their own writing and then applying them to our own writing.

Math: We have been busy making a great amount of progress through module 1. Students have been doing an awesome job of persevering through many difficult word problems that correspond to multi-step, multi-digit addition and subtraction problems and then modeling these scenarios with tape diagrams. This week we wrapped up the module, reviewed what we've learned and took the post-assessment. I am very excited to see the growth the students have made over the course of the module!

Social Studies: We have completed our mini unit on space and have now moved on to social studies. We have begun our unit by learning about Washington's earliest people. Students have had the opportunity to form expert groups on six different indigenous tribes in both Western and Eastern Washington. Yesterday we were able to explore many different artifacts provided to us from the Burke Museum. Ask your child what they enjoyed observing most! We also have been learning about how geography and climate affects the way various native tribes lived.

In Other News:

Conferences: Conference scheduling opens on Monday, October 14th at 8:00 AM for our **student-led** conferences on December 4th and 5th. Please sign up through Family Access. I have also attached directions to the files section of my website. If you need specific accommodations, please let me know.

ROCKET FUEL FUNDRAISER: Tuesday, October 15th is the last day to turn in any slips or money for our PTA Rocket Fuel Fundraiser! Please visit www.apollopta.org to find out how you can help us reach our goal! Visit here to make a donation: <https://apollorocketfuel.azurewebsites.net/login.aspx>

PTA: Apollo families, have you had a chance to renew or sign up for your 2019-2020 Apollo PTA membership yet? If not, please consider supporting our teachers and students by supporting the PTA. Signing up is easy. Follow this link to the PTA website <http://apollopta.ourschoolpages.com/Home>. [If you prefer a paper copy, you can print a membership form from the PTA website \(PTA Info tab, PTA forms\).](#)

Motivated by an incentive? Classrooms that have as many memberships as students will receive a hands-on STEM activity and the classroom teacher will receive \$50 to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Thank you for supporting the Apollo PTA!

Fees: Please make sure you take the time to pay for both the planner and planetarium fees online if you have not done so already. If you have any questions or if this causes a financial hardship, please let me know.

Snack: Thank you to the Baker, Bressan, and Chavez families (and anyone else I may have missed) for donating snack to share! We have enough snacks for the time being.

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!