

4th Grade News 10-18-19

What We're Learning:

Reading: This week we have been focusing on the strategies of envisioning and predicting. We have been able to improve our responses to what we've read by considering what we already know about the character's traits and motivations. We've also learned that at some point in our book, our character may do something that stands out, and their behavior may change in a certain way. We know when this happens, it usually signifies that some new learning or change is occurring within our character. Students have also been working on backing up their claims about characters with evidence from the text.

Writing: This week we started typing up our realistic fiction stories as we draw our unit to a close. We took the time to talk about editing and the different tools and resources we can use to help us correct punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and grammar in our writing. We also worked on rereading our work to make sure that all our tenses were the same throughout our story. I've also assessed students on spelling and students will be starting leveled word work groups on Monday.

Math: Module 1 math tests went home this week. Please make sure to sign and return the assessment to confirm you have seen your child's work. Our new module is up and running and almost over! This quick module on converting metric units only has five lessons. Students this week practiced converting between units for length, mass, and volume. We have also had time to continue earlier work on addition and subtraction of mixed unit measurements and simplifying and converting our sum/difference to the smaller unit.

Social Studies: Students enjoyed a more comprehensive visit on Tuesday with the artifacts from the Burke Museum and a few of their docents. We learned about and saw examples of the elements of Native American life we've been studying, which include natural resources the indigenous people used, economy and trade, and their beliefs and values. Ask your child to tell you about their expert group and what interesting artifacts fit in with their tribe.

In Other News:

Volunteering: I am excited to let you know that if you've been cleared by the Washington State Patrol, you can now sign up to volunteer in class! This year I'm using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming volunteer spots. If you decide to volunteer, it would be helpful if you could sign up with at least 24 hours notice so I can ensure I have something prepared for your visit. Thank you for your time!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com:

<https://signup.com/go/uQzFmBH>

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Room Parent/Grandparent: If you have any interest in planning and organizing seasonal classroom parties with other parents/grandparents, please let me know! Being at new district/school/grade level leaves me very little time to coordinate these types of events and they may not happen without your help. Thanks for your consideration!

Conferences: Conference scheduling is now open 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.

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: We have a few days' worth of snacks available. Please consider donating egg and peanut free snacks for our students. Thank you!

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!