

4th Grade News 11-17-19

What We're Learning:

Reading: We have begun a new unit on the topic of survival with a great selection of books funded by the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Students are working in book clubs to discuss the various elements of fiction. This last week we concentrated on using multiple strategies to figure out unknown words.

Writing: Students are continuing drafting their opinion pieces. We have been practicing this week with sentence stems to help us elaborate on our writing. Students are working to “write long” on one topic and support their opinions with multiple different pieces of evidence and reasoning. Soon, we will be developing our thesis statements for our opinion piece we want to bring all the way to publish.

Math: We've switched gears in math and are in the thick of multi-digit multiplication. At this point, your child should be able to multiply up to four-digit numbers by a one-digit number. Students now know how to solve multi-digit multiplication problems using four different methods: the area model, the place value model, partial products, and the standard algorithm. We will be moving on to division shortly.

Science: Our matter unit continues in class. Most recently, we conducted several investigations to demonstrate ways we can prove that air takes up space. We are also in the middle of an evaporation investigation to show that matter can change forms, but we're still waiting on that proof! Hopefully on Monday when we measure our samples, we will see that the water has evaporated and turned into a gas. We're also learning that due to the law of the conservation of mass, matter is neither created nor destroyed. Rather it takes on a different form.

In Other News:

Conferences: I still have a few parents that have not signed up for conferences. Please let me know if you need assistance with this process. Also, plan on having your child attend their conference, as their conference this year will be student-led.

Volunteering: The November volunteer calendar is up! 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/OxENoNt>

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!

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!