

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News 2-11-20

### What We're Learning:

**Reading:** Our readers have launched a new unit on important Black Americans in history. Students are studying Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, and George Washington Carver. We have been working on reading skills such as main idea and details, text structure, cause and effect, and using context clues for understanding unknown words.

**Writing:** Our writing is taking a shift from opinion to informational. We are starting to think about topics that interest us based on the effects of exploration on Washington. Students have developed some potential thesis statements regarding what brought new groups of people to the Pacific Northwest and how those different groups of people impact the Pacific Northwest and Indigenous People.

**Math:** We are through the first six lessons of our new fraction unit. Students are working on how to demonstrate fractions and equivalencies using tape diagrams and area models. We are learning about the rules of adding and multiplying fractions and making conjectures about fraction operations.

**Social Studies:** Students have been learning about the Lewis and Clark expedition. We've discussed the purpose of the expedition, the results, and the implications for Indigenous People. We have also studied primary sources and will be delving into Lewis and Clark's journals. Later this week, we will further our study of the expedition by learning about Sacagawea and York, Clark's slave.

### In Other News:

#### **Valentine's Day and Literacy Celebration:**

This Friday, students will be decorating a bag for their Valentine cards. We are planning on exchanging cards at 2:00. This is an optional event, and if your child wants to participate, please make sure cards are given out to each class member. At 3:00 we will enjoy a literacy celebration with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Each class will have a student present a piece of literature or writing and we will enjoy hot

chocolate/apple cider. If you would like to volunteer at this event, please let me know!

### **Outstanding Educator and Golden Acorn Awards:**

Do you know an extraordinary educator and/or volunteer that deserves to be recognized for their above and beyond service at Apollo? Please help us honor these exceptional educators and volunteers by completing a nomination form for Outstanding Educator and/or The Golden Acorn awards. We are accepting nominations through Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Nomination forms may be submitted online through the following links and hard copies are available in the office. Questions? Please contact [goldenacorn@apollopta.org](mailto:goldenacorn@apollopta.org)

Outstanding Educator: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Apollo OE-2020](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Apollo_OE-2020)

PTSA Volunteer Awards (Golden Acorn & Outstanding Advocate):

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Apollo Awards2020](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Apollo_Awards2020)

### **Washington State Expert Fair:**

Informational packets went home last week regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Expert Fair. Please make sure you go over this packet with your son/daughter and return the signature page. Topic choices are due tomorrow, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions!

### **Science Fair:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers recently made the decision that this year we will make the Science Fair project optional. There are several reasons why we went forward with this decision: Controlled variable experiments are a very small part of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), we will be adopting a new curriculum next year (pending Board approval) that is NGSS aligned, we do not have time in class to assist students with these projects, especially since they are not well-aligned to the standards, and various equity concerns. More information will be sent home soon if your child would still like to participate in this event.

### **Read Across America:**

Information will be coming home soon about Read Across America week. March 6<sup>th</sup> is also our literature character spirit day.

**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!