

4th Grade News 9-20-19

What We're Learning:

Reading: Students are still working on building their reading stamina. The expectation for 4th grade students is that they are able to read independently for up to 40 minutes a day at school. On certain days, students will be conferring with me individually or also working in small groups during that time. I also continued work on individually assessing students to find their reading level, which will help when we begin differentiated reading groups in the class.

Writing: Students have committed to a particular small moment this week that they would like to continue to work on throughout the remainder of the unit. Students learned ways to add drama to their realistic fiction by adding dialogue and action through strong verb word choice. We also ensured that our characters were facing a problem in their stories and that they faced multiple failed attempts at solving the problem. Students continued to work on their story mountain (story arc), concentrating on emotion and the heart of the story through rising action.

Math: Our work with place value continues this week as we learned about how to make comparisons and order numbers using inequality symbols. Students took their first quiz which will be going home next week after I use the data for interventions and enrichment opportunities. We also learned how to round numbers up to the nearest thousand and how to place numbers on a vertical number line to help us make rounding decisions.

Science: We continued our study of Earth, Moon, and Sun. This week we conducted an investigation based on perspective. We found that the closer an object is, the larger it appears and the farther an object is, the smaller it appears, hence why the sun, which is vastly bigger than the moon appears to be close to

the same size. Students also learned that it is important for scientists to have additional evidence before making assumptions based on appearance alone.

In Other News:

Planetarium Visit: On Thursday, September 26th, the Pacific Science Center will be bringing their portable planetarium to Apollo just for our fourth graders! We are excited to have this opportunity for our students, as it supplements our current science unit. In order to cover the costs for this in-house field trip, we ask that you pay \$5.00. You may do this online in the same way that you paid for the planner.

Curriculum Night: Thank you to all the parents that were able to make it to Curriculum Night last night! For those of you that couldn't make it, I have uploaded my presentation to the files section of the website.

Volunteers: I appreciate volunteers! Please note that if you plan on volunteering in the 2019-20 school year, you must update your credentials each year. You may update or fill out a new application at <https://issaquahvolunteers.hrmlplus.net> Volunteer scheduling will begin in October, so stay tuned!

Snack: We have already exhausted our PTA snack for the month of September. If you would like to donate a peanut and egg free snack to the class, we would appreciate it!

Reading at Home: Do you want to help your child "Blast into Reading" this year? Have them participate in the Apollo PTA's Read At Home (RAH) program! Your child should have received a RAH Reading Challenge worksheet from school. If they didn't, visit: www.apollopta.ourschoolpages.com/Page/Programs/RAH If your child completes the worksheet and turns it in by **December 2, 2019**, they will get the opportunity to pick out a new book for free!

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!