

# Fourth Grade Update

Sara Levine •Friday, Oct 23 at 3:54 PM • **4th Grade**

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

We are 2 full months into the school year and just completed another successful week together. Here are some highlights, as well as some reminders and things to look forward to next week.

Highlights from this week:

- We continued our “MOSAIC Mondays,” learning the values of the MOSAIC Project. This week we focused on “A” for “Attitude (a positive one).” We wrote our thoughts on this principle using our ongoing online Jamboard. Some examples include: being flexible, noticing how you act or react around others, and in different situations, and that you get to choose how you show up in the world.
- In social studies, we’ve been going deep into learning about Indigenous- European Contact. Students built upon their Jamboards from last week where they thought about both perspectives and drew their own opinions about what was fair or not based on their understanding. We also explored the types of technology and tools both groups had at the time, emphasizing that they were each incredibly resourceful and clever, working with quite different resources and materials, and that neither was more or less “advanced” than the other. We discussed how tools and technology can relate to power, particularly in terms of power over others (control) vs. power within communities (balance and empowerment). Through

discussions and graphic organizers, we thought about the different motivations, lifestyles, and tools of each group in terms of why and how colonization happened soon after.

- We began an interdisciplinary Social Studies/Literacy assignment where students filled out a graphic organizer to help them start writing a creative, fictional “primary source” piece on Indigenous-European contact from the perspective of an Indigenous Californian. Students will complete that next week and it will become part of their next Timeline page.
- In Writers Workshop, students finished their final drafts of the “Brown Bag Essay,” a complete 5-paragraph essay about items in their life that are special and represent them in different ways. This essay was also accompanied by a visual art piece called a “triptych,” where students drew each of their items carefully and thoughtfully on a three-paneled template.
- In math, we continued our exploration of factors and multiples and also moved into working with multiplicative comparisons. For example, we noticed that if we know that a shovel is three times the size of a hammer, and we know the size of the hammer, we can multiply it by 3 to find the height of the shovel. We practiced these skills through differentiated small groups in breakout rooms, workbook pages, and games.
- We had another great meeting this week with our 1st-grade reading buddies and even got to create some spooky stories together as we get excited about Halloween coming up next week.
- In science, we had some time to really work on our nature journals. Students had an opportunity to share some of their entries in small groups, and also as a whole cohort.
- We continued to work with online platforms including Lexia and Dreambox and students also continued to enjoy their specialty classes, including Art!

Next week we will...

- Complete our Indigenous perspective writing piece
- Start our Indigenous-European contact Timeline page
- Learn about the MOSAIC values, focusing on I: Individuality.
- Review and take a math assessment for Unit 1, focusing on multiplication concepts
- Add on to our nature journals.
- Begin reading our class novel, Zia by Scott O'Dell. Zia is his sequel to Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Engage in all specialty classes including Equity and Justice, PE, Learning Garden, and Art.
- Continue to use a variety of online platforms and analog tools for multiple modalities of learning
- Continue our weekly office hours on Tuesdays from 12:50-1:35
- Have some Halloween fun!

And, as a quick reminder, this weekend is the East Bay Mini Maker Faire, hosted virtually through Zoom! Check out the PDS post on Parent Square to get more info. Hope to see you there!

We hope you enjoy the weekend!

Warmly,

~Sara and Paul