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Fourth Grade Update 2.4.22

Sara Levine • 4 days ago • Friday, Feb 4 at 5:08 PM • **4th Grade**

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

We are moving into February and trucking right along! Read on for some highlights of what we've been working on together:

- On Tuesday we talked about Lunar New Year and students who celebrated shared out their family traditions around the holiday. [redacted] brought in a wonderful picture book to share with the class, and [redacted] brought in beautiful laser cut wooden tokens with our class names on them and delivered them to everyone in red envelopes (hóngbāo).
- We kicked off Black History Month with daily spotlights of some awesome Black women and their contributions to their communities and the world. We will continue doing daily spotlights as well as have discussions, read articles, and do some writing throughout the month. We emphasize with the kids that Black history is American history and that we learn about it year-round; Black History Month is just an extra opportunity to zoom in, learn, and celebrate even more. Additionally, we will talk not only about how February is Black History month, but that it is also Black Future Month, and that there is a whole lot to learn, celebrate, honor, and work towards.
- In our class meetings this week we focused on working together to follow class expectations to make school a rich learning environment, socially and academically. We've been noticing that students are getting a little lax about following directions and staying on task, and felt the need to address it together as a community. We acknowledged that the pandemic continues to wear on us and that we absolutely need to create more space to accommodate for that, but that at the same time we also need to follow expectations and agreements to function smoothly as a big group. One student brought up the analogy of feeling like a rubber band, being stretched really tightly and not having room to stretch more. We discussed empathizing with each other and finding ways to make more room so that our "rubber bands" don't break.
- In social studies, we continued our third timeline page on Indigenous resistance to the mission system and will be wrapping it up next week. Students worked with teachers to edit their paragraphs they wrote using their graphic organizers, and putting them together on their timeline pages along with a detailed illustration. Students are really getting a sense of perspectives when it comes to history, and how to seek out examples of resistance against power.
- In math, we continued our study of fractions through geoboards. Students are examining many different models to represent fractions and strengthen their conceptual understanding of equivalencies, comparisons, and computation.
- In literacy, we are working in small groups on reading skills and beginning to use our journaling to stretch our narrative writing skills.
- We continued our small, mixed-class groups for our specialty classes of Learning Garden, Art, and Music. Spanish and PE are taught to each whole class separately.

PLEASE remember to supply your child with an N95/KN95 or a double mask (cloth + surgical) to be worn through the day while at school. We want to maintain the overall health of the whole community so we climb out of this with full vigor.

We hope you have a lovely weekend!

Warmly,

Sara, Paul, Claire, and Jalen