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Fourth Grade Update 11.19.21

Sara Levine • 3 months ago • Friday, Nov 19 at 4:00 PM • **4th Grade**

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

Another great week is in the books, right before a well deserved Fall-riday break!

Below are some of this week's highlights followed by some items that are upcoming when we return from break.

Highlights from this week:

- In math we are continuing to practice multiplying by tens, hundreds, and thousands using ratio tables, array sketches, and noticing patterns. We have also expanded to multiplying by multiples of ten like 20 and 30, noticing that these numbers can be broken down into 2×10 , 3×10 , and so on. Breaking down numbers will help students understand how to multiply multi-digit numbers by other multi-digit numbers moving forward.
- We continue to include small group math lessons throughout the week so students are able to receive more directed support and enrichment. The students also have been accessing digital math games provided by the Bridges program through Google classroom at school and may do so at home as well.
- Since Thanksgiving is coming up next week, we did a lesson to help students think about perspectives, primary vs. secondary sources, and dominant narratives vs. marginalized experiences. We watched 2 videos with contrasting narratives: one was a cartoon about the Thanksgiving myth, giving some of both perspectives but still more centering the European one, and the other video was of Indigenous people today doing word association with the word "Thanksgiving," showing a variety of responses but many that refer to lies and mistreatment. Students answered directed questions to help them reflect on what they noticed and felt while comparing and contrasting both videos. We had a deep discussion about history, power, and perspective, while acknowledging that it is also still a beautiful thing to have a holiday where we get to show our gratitude and give thanks.
- Our Thanksgiving lesson was a great segue into our next unit in social studies on Indigenous-European contact and the beginning of colonization. We read the book, *Encounter*, by Jane Yolen, and discussed what we noticed. Students then created Jamboards with emotion webs and questions to answer in order to process and think about what the Indigenous experience might have been like when Europeans first arrived on their land. We also discussed the role of tools, technology, and power in colonization. We even broke down the idea of power in terms of power over someone (control) vs. power within oneself (empowerment/strength) which is a theme we will come back to.
- In literacy rotations students continue to work in small groups to practice reading, writing, and comprehension skills. We have also been delving more into our spelling program, focusing this week on short vowel sounds. Students are engaging with these words through sorts, editing, analogies, and more.
- We have completed our rough drafts of our Brown Bag essays, following the structure of the graphic organizer. We explored how the structure of a paragraph (intro sentence - body sentences - conclusion sentence) mirrors the structure of an essay (intro paragraph - body paragraphs - conclusion paragraph) and also began doing some editing and revising, using a checklist for clarity.
- 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.
- We continued to follow all of our detailed COVID protocols, including being outside at least 50% of the day. We are using our outdoor tent classroom as well as the "patio," our outdoor space right outside of our classrooms, in addition to outdoor recess and lunchtime and various specialties. Additionally, we continued our twice-weekly COVID testing which the students handled with ease.

Reminders for the weeks ahead:

- There will be no school next week for Fall-iday break! Please remember that you need to have a negative COVID test for your child(ren) 1-3 days before returning to school on Monday, November 29th, regardless of travel or vaccination status.
- Some ideas of things to work on over the break if you're wanting to have some more structured activities:
 - Students have access to all of our online sites from home through Google Classroom (Dreambox, Multiplication.com, Typing Club, etc.).
 - Students can work on their book reviews for November.
 - Students can play math games (many of which can be found on Google Classroom).
 - Students are highly encouraged to continue daily reading and multiplication fact practice.
- Upon returning from Fall-iday break, students will:
 - Complete the Brown Bag Essay Project, including a corresponding art piece called a "triptych."
 - Create their timeline pages for our social studies unit on Indigenous-European Contact, including a creative writing piece.
 - Continue Literacy and Math rotations to work in small groups for support and enrichment.
 - Move forward with our math unit on double digit multiplication.
 - Have all of our regular specialties and reading buddies sessions, as well as our regular twice weekly Covid testing.

Also, we want to plant some seeds for our Winter Family Traditions for the week of 12/13-12/17. We like to invite families to share their winter traditions with the class, so please reach out if this is something you're interested in.

We wish you a lovely, relaxing Fall-iday break, and we'll see you back at school on November 29th!

Best,

Sara, Paul, Claire, and Jalen