



4R Newsletter

It's hard to believe that winter is upon us with this unseasonal weather we're experiencing! I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a peaceful, restful holiday together. It was so nice that so many of you and your families were able to join us for our winter concert this year. The children worked very hard to learn their songs and they were very excited to perform them for a live audience! They all did a wonderful job!

4R students have been working diligently and progressing nicely through the 4th grade curriculum. In writing, students have been working hard on writing their personal narratives. During our study of personal narratives, we focus on how an author takes a small moment and build an entire story around that moment by adding descriptive details, figurative language, sensory imagery, and voice. Our goal, as authors, is to write in such a way that the reader experiences our feelings and actions through the words and phrases we choose in writing our personal narratives. This is a difficult task, but the kids are working really hard to accomplish this goal. We hope to have our personal narratives completed by the end of January, at which point, we will move into writing fictional stories.

During Reader's Workshop, we have been working on several strategies to increase our comprehension when we read. We have been working on character and setting development, and identifying the problem and solution in fictional stories. One of our goals is to understand how and why authors choose their story elements with purpose, so that we can do the same with our own writing. Other skills we have been working on include determining the very important points of a story and using evidence from the text to support our answers. During the month of January, we will work on questioning and inferring to build comprehension.

Over the past several weeks, we have been focusing on geometry –exploring and identifying planes (2-dimensional shapes) based on attributes. Students can identify and draw lines, segments, rays, and angles. We have also explored concepts pertaining to 2-dimensional shapes including: similar and congruent, convex and concave, and symmetry. We will continue to practice these learned skills and build upon them as we learn about polyhedrons (3-D shapes) and their attributes. Going forward, we will begin our multiplication and division unit where students will explore their inverse relationship with one another. Students have been working very hard to memorize their multiplication tables so that they can pass the multiplication test that they take every day. Most of the children have successfully passed their "12's" tables and are now working on mixed tables. Please encourage your child to practice their math facts every day because knowing their math facts makes it so much easier for them as we move into more complex algorithms and word problems.

In Science, students are continuing to work with Mrs. Koziol on their landform projects. Using their knowledge of weathering and erosion, students are discovering how these two factors impact landforms and their own environment. We will be switching for Social Studies again in mid-to-late January. So far, the kids have learned about the Northeast and Southeast regions of the United States. They will be bringing home their flipbooks so that they can share their knowledge with you! When we resume Social Studies in a few weeks, the children will begin studying additional U.S. regions.

As you can see, we have accomplished a great deal in the past couple of months. I am so proud of our kids. They work hard every day to challenge themselves to learn and master new skills. I look forward to a new year full of challenges and accomplishments.

~Mrs. Rutledge