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NEWSLETTER

Week of January 4, 2021

Dr. Stephen Ferraro Principal

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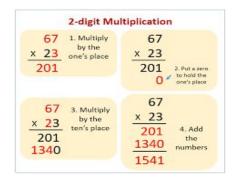
Upcoming Events:

January 12th - Parent Teacher Conferences

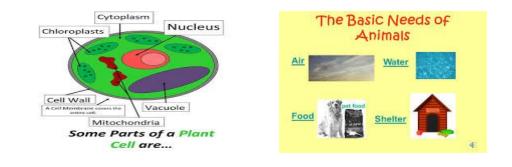
January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

Mrs. Martinez and Mr. Rapp

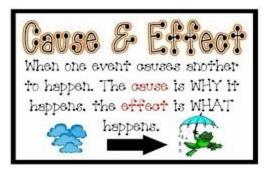
The Fourth Graders are back from the holiday break and seem more motivated than ever! We hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and peaceful break from the Zoom life. In Math, your child is working on multiplying by 1-digit numbers. Next week, we will be starting to learn the critical skill of multiplying by 2-digit numbers. I strongly encourage you to have your child practice the basic multiplication facts (3x4, 7x9, etc.) at home and have them study the multiplication times table. In Science, we have been learning/rapping about cells, plants,



and fungi. Next week, we will be starting a new exciting chapter about animals, and how they meet their basic needs in their habitats. I am very excited to get back into the classroom with all our Science materials, so we can do some experiments!



Mrs. Martinez and Mr. Rapp - continued



In Language Arts, students are using the power of their imagination and creativity to write fictional narratives. They have been busy brainstorming, developing settings and characters, and learning to create rising action and climax. We have also been exploring text structures, such as cause and effect, sequence,

problem and solution.

and compare and contrast. Please encourage your child to read at least 15 minutes each day. In Social Studies, we will continue to learn about colonial life in New Jersey, in the coming weeks.

Believe you can and you're halfway there!



Ms. Cioffi

Happy New Year from Ms. Cioffi's class. This week we have been working on all things New Year! We have learned new vocabulary words, worked on social skills with a New Year's game, and did a movement activity to help us with telling time. We look forward to the rest of this month, where we will be focusing on our theme of Winter. The class will be working on numerous activities, such as dressing for the chilly weather, making snow, creating snowmen, and much much more.







Mrs. Havel Smith

In Math, the Fifth Graders are completing their chapter on multiplying decimals, and will move onto dividing decimals next week. They learned several different ways to multiply decimals, such as using models, partial products, and using the Commutative and Associative Properties. Although they were given many different ways to do it, they all prefer to perform the simple steps of the algorithm.

.3x.7=.21	1.4 x .23= .322			4.5 x .7= 3.15
.3X.7 21	_	.2	.03	4.5 x .7=
	1	.2	.03	(45x .1)x(7x.1) (45x 7)x(.1x.1)
	.4	.08	.012	(315)x(.01)
	.4	.08	.012	3.15

In Science, the Fifth Graders just completed their Food Chain Unit. During this unit, they learned all about Ecosystems and their abiotic and biotic factors. They learned about the food chains and food webs from one consumer to the next within the ecosystem. Before the holiday break, the students had an opportunity to make their own food webs. They did a great job on this activity!



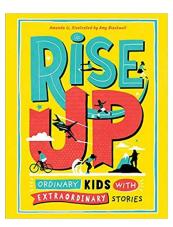
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Mrs. Suarez



Fifth Graders recently finished a class read aloud, *Loser*, by Jerry Spinelli. They also wrote essays to compare and contrast the main character, Donald Zinkoff, with the main character from the realistic

fiction book they read on the Epic book site. Nonfiction is the next focus, and the class is enjoying the inspiring stories in their current mentor text *Rise Up Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories,* by Amanda Li. On the Raz-Kids site, the students are reading and taking notes on their individual books, on their levels, in the same genre. They will begin working

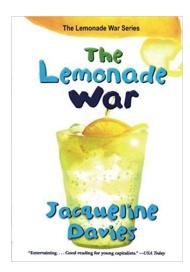


on their Opinion/Argument essay for their next writing assignment next week.

In Social Studies, the Fifth Graders are wrapping up a study of the United States regions, landforms, states, capitals, and Native American tribes of each region. As a culminating activity, they will create a cookie in the shape of a chosen state, research the landforms and bodies of water, and decorate their cookie. Now that they know about their states, and have learned so much about their country, the next focus will be Central and South America, and studying the first people in that area.



Mr. Hayes



Mr. Hayes' students are diligently working on their Raz-Plus accounts. Raz-Plus is an award-winning website that provides comprehensive resources for students. The site offers over 800 texts at different levels of reading difficulty. The students access their leveled text through an interactive learning portal designed to

keep them motivated and engaged. Every book is available in online and mobile formats. Students can listen to, or read books, at their own pace. In addition to Leveled Reading, the class just started the novel *The Lemonade War*, during



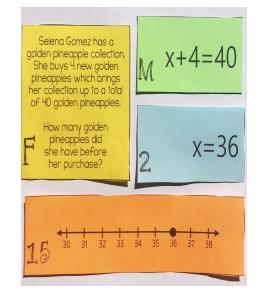
Guided Reading lessons. The novel exposes the students to literature. It is helping students develop the skills needed to become stronger, independent readers.

Mrs. Awadallah

In Math, your child is learning about writing and solving equations. They learned how to solve equations with whole numbers, and will now extend that knowledge to solve equations involving decimals and fractions. It is amazing how quickly the school year goes by, and it is also amazing how much Math the students have learned! Keep up the good work!

One-Step Equations Vocabulary

- Equation a mathematical sentence that contains an equal sign. The equation acts like a balance scale.
- * Solution a number that can replace a variable in an equation and make a true statement.



Ms. Carey

In Science class, the Sixth Grade students are learning about the interactions within an ecosystem. The students discussed the different types of symbiotic relationships, and viewed many examples of these fascinating interactions between organisms.



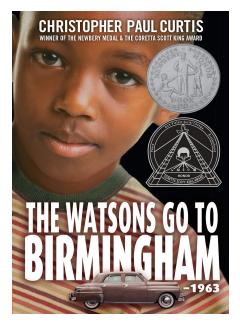


In Social Studies class, the students are discussing the southern colonies, and the reasons they were established. They are recognizing the relationship between environments, and the impact it had on the different colonies' economies.





Mrs. Centrella



Happy New Year! With the New Year comes new Reading and Writing Units! Our third Reading unit focuses on how different novels can share the same theme. We will be comparing the theme of *Maniac Magee*, and our next novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*. Our new novel falls under the genre of historical fiction, and we will be taking a look at how setting affects conflict, as well as other important literary elements.

In Writing, the students are being introduced to argumentative essays. These essays present the writer's viewpoint on a topic of personal interest. The students will

be listening to mentor texts to understand the essay structure, and also help them brainstorm ideas for their writing pieces.

Remember to encourage reading, at level, for at least 30 minutes a day, on either Epic or Raz-Kids. Let's keep those levels up in the New Year!

