

NEWSLETTER

Week of April 4, 2022

Dr. Stephen Ferraro Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 15th-22nd - No School - Spring Recess



Mrs. Martinez, Mr. Rapp, and Mr. Szabo



Just like the weather in spring, things are starting to heat up in 4th Grade! As the NJSLA state test dates get closer, we are taking practice tests, and refreshing our memory on skills that we learned throughout the school year. In Math, we are working on multiplying fractions by whole numbers. This is an important skill for the aspiring chefs and bakers, because of all the fractions in

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recipes. As always, it is important for students to practice basic multiplication facts, and memorize the times tables. Decimals are next!

In Language Arts, students have chosen their topics for their opinion essays. We have begun to explore different techniques to hook the reader, and practice using each technique.



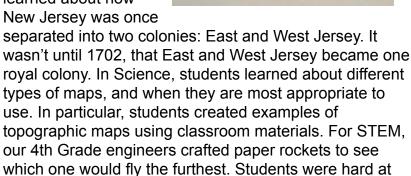
Mrs. Martinez, Mr. Rapp, and Mr. Szabo - continued

Students have also begun gathering evidence and research, to support their opinions. In Reading, we will be studying how behaviors, thoughts, and dialogue show a character's traits, and evaluate whether a writer can make you feel empathy for a character.

In Social Studies, students are learning how England



came to seize New Amsterdam, in the late 1600's. We also learned about how New Jersey was once



work testing different designs, to see which one worked best.

Ms. Cioffi

Spring has sprung, and Ms. Cioffi's class has been preparing for the nice weather, and Easter. Last week, we started decorating for Easter by making Easter egg baskets, and lacing bunnies and carrots. This week, the students participated in a fun, gross



motor game to work on identifying colored Easter eggs, and acting out

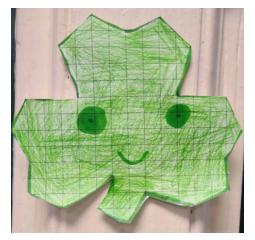


different animal movements, to find the Easter eggs around the classroom. The class has also started to work on identifying proper clothing for the change in season and temperature. We are definitely looking forward to the warmer weather.



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Mrs. Havel Smith



The Fifth Graders are finishing up their fractions unit this week. They are now able to perform all operations of fractions, along with reducing and converting mixed numbers and improper fractions. Just ask a 5th Grader to show you! They also just finished graphing on the coordinate plane, as they graphed shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day, and put them around their Math classroom. The Fifth Graders are excited to move right into Geometry, where they will work on finding volume, and look at 2D & 3D shapes and figures.

In Science, the Fifth Graders started working on a new unit that challenges the students to plan for 15 years

from now. They have to plan improvements to the infrastructure of their community, so that it

is prepared to meet the needs of the people who live there, in the year 2037. They will be researching and learning about the community's current infrastructure, and trying to find a solution that can help make things better. Some ideas may seem crazy now, but might be the solutions of the future! They will also be making a model of their community, and new infrastructure. We are all looking forward to seeing what might be needed in the year 2037.







Mrs. Suarez



The Fifth Graders have been focused on sharpening their testing taking skills in preparation for the NJSLA testing in May. Mini lessons include tips for reading longer, more difficult texts, and strategies to use before, during, and after reading. The students are gaining confidence. Taking practice tests has helped ease some anxiety, because they know what to expect. They have made so much progress since September. The current genres we are studying are Historical Fiction and Fantasy. Students have been rotating comfortable seating, and reading for twenty minutes in class. They are making notes of basic story elements, figurative language, and jotting down things that stand out to them as they read. In Writing, the students are proofreading, revising, and editing a narrative from the point of view of an animal. Many have chosen to write about their pets, while others chose to write about wild animals from their neighborhood. They can use dialogue successfully, and know when to use it effectively.

The finished products will be read by their peers, and each can leave a positive comment.

In Social Studies, the students have started a new unit about Europe, and the first people to live there. They are working on labeling a map with landforms, bodies of water, and countries. They will be looking to answer the following questions: How did the first people come to Europe? What changes did farming and the Bronze Age bring to the people of the continent?





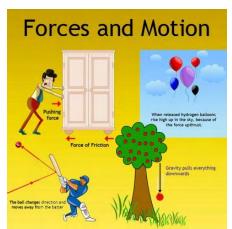
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Mrs. Awadallah

In Math, the Sixth Graders are learning about measures of center and variability. Students will learn how to identify and ask a statistical question, that results in a good representative set of data. "How many days are in September?" is not a statistical question, because there is only one answer to the question. However, asking all of your friends



"How many movies did you watch last month?" would provide a more varied set of data, and can lead to meaningful analysis. In addition, your child will learn how to find the mean, median, mode, range, and other measures of variability, such as the InterQuartile Range



(IQR) and the Mean Absolute Deviation (MAD), of a data set. While learning how to display and summarize statistical data using frequency tables, histograms, and box plots, your child will learn to interpret data, and provide reasons for their conclusions. For example, students will choose which measure of center best describes the middle of a data set, and explain why.

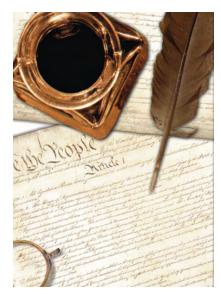
In Science, the students are discovering force and motion. More specifically, how force and mass affect the speed, distance, and motion of

objects. Students will learn that force is any push and/or pull, and has a size or direction. This lesson leads students to the understanding that when combined forces act on an object, and are equal to anything but zero, the net force is unbalanced. To view this concept in real-time, students will simulate force and motion, by using a force table.





Mrs. Centrella



In Social Studies, the students have just finished learning about the Constitution, better known as the "Supreme Law of the Land." The students reviewed the Preamble, as well as

the first seven articles. They also learned that the Constitution, and our federal government, are modeled on Native American nations and the governments of the Ancient Greeks and Ancient Romans.

In Writing, the students have successfully brainstormed, researched, planned, drafted, revised, and edited their independent argumentative essays. The students also practiced citing work to give credit



to their sources. Some of the topics for our essays include better and healthier school lunches, school uniforms, paying college athletes,

and banning product testing on animals. I am so impressed and proud of their hard work. In Reading, we are focusing on the plot of a fictional text. We are learning that there are sometimes multiple plots in a story, and authors use literary devices, like flashbacks, or a story within a story. The Sixth Graders are reminded to keep reading every night, to keep those reading levels up!



