October, 2014

Fourth Grade Update

 The last few weeks have been busy and bustling in the fourth grade. The students are settled into the routines and procedures, and they have all rotated for science and social studies to the other fourth grade teachers. **Here is what we have covered in the last few weeks:**

ELA:

* Compare and Contrast
* Story Structure
* Character’s Traits and Motivations
* Reader’s Theater
* Subject/Predicate
* Declarative/Interrogative/Exclamatory/Imperative sentences
* Answering Question Types

Math:

* Multiplication and Division: Meanings, Facts, Properties, Factors, and Quotients
* Generating and Analyzing Patterns: Repeating Patterns, Number Sequences, Extending Tables, Rules and Geometric Patterns
* Place Value: Representing Numbers, Relationships, Comparisons, Ordering and Rounding

Writing:

* Open Response Writing
* Launch of the “Personal Narrative”

Science:

* Organization of science notebooks
* Making “careful observations”
* Working with and learning about compasses
* Comparing the relative size of shadows in accordance to the position of the sun

Social Studies:

* Organization of social studies notebooks
* Establishing expectations for review question responses (TTQA!)
* Looking at the US: major landforms, rivers, climate

Engineering:

* Exploration of the meaning of technology and engineering
* Discussions about the field of acoustical engineering
* Tracing of Kwame’s use of the Engineering Design Process in the story “Kwame’s Sound”
* Exploration of how vibrations are the source of all sound, and how different materials and methods can be used to “damp” (quiet) sound
* Creation of Spectograms

**Here are a few upcoming topics that will be covered within the next weeks:**

ELA:

* Plot, conflict and resolution
* Prefixes, suffixes and roots
* Compound subjects and predicates
* Author’s purpose and perspective

Math:

* Addition and Subtraction of Whole Numbers, mental math, estimating, subtracting across zeros

Writing:

* Continue personal narrative

Science:

* rotation/ revolution of the sun and its effect on the seasons
* phases if the moon

Social Studies:

* Continue looking at the US: elevation maps, resources, land use maps

Engineering:

* Identify and distinguish between different properties of sounds
* Discuss and compare multiple ways to visually represent the same sound

**Classroom Updates:**

* **Picture day** is Thursday, October 23rd.
* The fourth grade will be celebrating on October 31st with a fall/Halloween **classroom party**. After our specialists, the fourth graders will engage in fall-related puzzles and activities.
* As fall is slowly creeping in, please remind your son or daughter to bring appropriate outerwear (**jackets, sweatshirts**, etc.) to be prepared for changing temperatures at recess and on the walk to/from school.
* If your student is currently using **mechanical pencils** at school, would you kindly replace them with regular pencils? The mechanical pencils are becoming an unexpected but major distraction.

**Ask your student to tell you about Robert Lewis Stevenson’s journey across the United States!**