



FOURTH GRADE



P.S 117

Briarwood, New York

Fourth Grade Curriculum
February 2011

Fourth Grade Curriculum Newsletter

Math

Students will collect, analyze and display data in various graphical formats such as pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs and circle graphs. They will calculate the duration of an event using elapsed time on clocks and calendars and measure temperature on a scale of positive and negative numbers.

Science

During the month of February, fourth graders will observe and explore properties of water in solid, liquid and gaseous states. They will be able to identify the movement of molecules during these phases of matter, as well as how they change from one state of matter to another. They will begin to investigate components of the water cycle identify the parts and purposes of each stage, as well as conduct various investigations using water.

Social Studies

Fourth grade students will be finishing up their unit on Colonial Times by working in groups to create their own colonies. Using their knowledge of history, geography, language and society, each group will make up a name, a map, a flag and describe in detail the schools, homes and food of the people of their colony. These colonies must fit into the mold created by the original 13 colonies, having similar elements mixed with the group's creativity.

Reader and Writer's Workshop

Grade four readers are putting away their fantasy stories and turning their minds away from elves, princesses, and dragons and checking into the next unit of study, Historical Fiction. Readers of historical fiction will continue to utilize and revisit all the reading strategies they have been learning about and practicing since September. Historical fiction books are fiction stories set in another historical era. Our students are required to dig deep into their critical reading skills (such as inference and interpretation) because the characters they will be reading about are likely to live in places our students have not lived in and in a time they have not known. It is also necessary for them to uncover how the characters react and respond to historical tensions. On the one hand historical fiction calls for new deep work of synthesis, yet it is necessary to rely on the well known strategies such as envisioning, to fully appreciate these stories.

Our fourth grade readers will continue working in book clubs which is well suited for this genre. Book clubs give the students a chance to think and talk about the complicated characters, plots, and themes found in these books. Having the opportunity to discuss, analyze and interpret the stories with other students enables each member to gain multiple perspectives as well as to learn from and to teach each other. Please remember to engage in book talk with your child. Invite them to share with you everything they are reading at school and question them about their new learning. We appreciate your enthusiasm and we are grateful for the opportunity to work with your child.

