

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

ROOMS 202 & 204

Dear Grade Four Families,

This past month has been full of new learning as we get deeper into the fourth grade curriculum. Students are progressing with following fourth grade expectations. They have a clearer idea of what it looks like to be a fourth grader. Students are also adjusting to the rigor and high expectations that come along with this grade.

We had a wonderful time having many of you join us for the Personal Narrative Writing Celebration. Our writers worked very hard and were proud to show off their writing skills! Thank you for being a part of their celebration and for contributing food and drinks! We know it was a special morning for them and we look forward to having more opportunities to share the students work with you in the future!

Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Best,
Ms. Bahn & Ms. Correnti



Fourth Grade Mathematicians sharing their problem solving steps!

Reminders for Students & Families

- Healthy snack is provided in school daily
- Half day dismissal is at 12:00 p.m.
- Strings is every Thursday and band is every Friday
- Please make sure students pack homework folders each day
- We are requesting any book or magazine donations for the classroom appropriate for grades 2 through 6
- To contact us, please e-mail us at:
 - abahn@k12.somerville.ma.us
 - icorrenti@k12.somerville.us

Thank you!



Fourth Grade Writers sharing their first personal narrative with parents and second graders!

Important Dates in November:

- 11- No School -Veteran's Day
- 17- Report Cards go home
- 18- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 26- Half Day, 12 p.m. Dismissal
- 27-28 No School -Thanksgiving

Q1 ends on November 7th



Writers were proud to share their hard work and it was wonderful to have parents their to celebrate their effort!

Subject Updates:



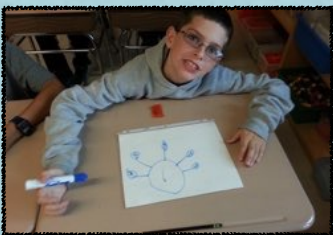
Personal narrative sharing



Personal narrative sharing



Personal narrative sharing



Math number bonds!



Math problem practice



Math

Throughout the school year students will be working on understanding fractions. We are working on our first fraction unit right now, focusing on third grade fraction review as well as beginning introductions to new fraction understanding. Students are learning how to draw number bonds that are equal to one whole, then decomposing the whole into fractions that will together equal it. This is a new concept for students, along with the new vocabulary and terminology. Students are also working on drawing number lines and labeling fractions on the number line. We are off to a fabulous start with fractions and I am looking forward to seeing our students continue to grow with this topic!

Reading

In reading students finished their first unit of study: Narrative Fiction. Skills covered include making predictions, meaningful connections, making inferences, understanding characters, and using evidence to write responses. Students reflected on their successes this unit as well as areas they want to improve upon in the next unit. We have begun our second unit: Nonfiction. In this unit students will explore a variety of nonfiction texts, including biographies, historical and science based articles and books. Key skills for this unit are identifying and using text features, determining the main idea, and summarizing a text. Although at first students can be apprehensive about reading nonfiction, it always turns out to be an exciting unit. Students love to share the new facts they learn about a broad span of topics such as the pyramids, animals, rescue jobs, and famous people.

Science

In Science we are finishing up our unit on weather. Students created anemometers to test the wind as we discussed the different weather instruments that are used. We have also spent time labeling diagrams with the parts of the water cycle. There is still great enthusiasm to share weather observations and point out the types of clouds outside at recess. Science continues to be a time for exploration!

Writing

Students recently shared their first personal narratives. It was wonderful to celebrate their hard work. We took a short break from stories and worked on expository writing, particularly responding to a open response question. Students learned how to plan a response, finding strong evidence to support their thinking as well as to explain their answers in their own words. Moving forward we will write a second personal narrative focusing in on new writing techniques, such as show not tell and figurative language.

Social Studies

Students have been working on identifying the lines of latitude and longitude on a map. We are using coordinates to find locations and learning about how an Atlas works. In the next few weeks we will start to talk about the different regions of the U.S. and learn about our U.S. geography.

Homework

Homework completion is very important to students' growth in fourth grade. Please make sure your student is completing every homework assignment. Helping students practice their math facts is always beneficial! Please check students' homework sheets nightly (we switched from Agendas to make it easier) to sign off on ten minute fact practice. Math Logs are checked every Monday and should be signed daily.

In addition to twenty minutes of nightly reading homework in ELA, students should be completing a "Try-It" in their writer's notebook. The assignments vary asking students to apply new skills learned such as writing a new lead, or write about what they read for homework that night. The "Try-It" prompt should be a short writing activity taking from 5-10 minutes in total. Please be sure to sign off on their homework page nightly.