



4th Grade Flyer

December 2011

LITERACY

In December we will continue to focus on realistic fiction. Realistic fiction includes stories that come from the author's imagination



but that could happen in the lives of real people. The setting, characters, plot and events could actually happen in real life. Students will also continue to read non-fiction text, focusing on specific text features.

Research on a Native American culture will soon begin, and students will start drafting their reports later in the month.

Students are also learning about the "Six Traits of Writing" (*ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions*). They will learn how to identify each trait and use the traits to improve and evaluate their own writing.



MATH

In addition to facts practice, students are learning how to write expressions and equations with variables. When reviewing completed homework, ask your child to explain these processes using the math terminology used in class.



Encourage the use of terms such as *equation, expression, and variable*. Students will also learn about the relationship between numeric patterns and how they relate to function-tables and coordinate planes.

The fifth grade math class is currently finishing their unit on Geometry. Their next unit of study will be on Number Relationships and Computation. Students will be comparing and ordering decimals, as well as relating decimals to fractions. You can assist your child by comparing prices of items bought at a grocery store and then listing them in order of greatest to least.

SOCIAL STUDIES

During this month we will study some historical cultures, utilizing a graphic organizer known as the "Wheel of Culture". We will also study aspects of Montgomery County's history in preparation for our field trip on Thursday, December 8th to the Beall-Dawson House in Rockville.



SCIENCE

We are continuing our study of an ecosystem's stability. This month we will learn about natural and human-made events that impact ecosystems. We will also investigate the effects of pollution. This will culminate in a short study about a current dilemma affecting the Chesapeake Bay.



THE VELVETEEN RABBIT



An annual tradition!!!

Correlating with our study of The Velveteen Rabbit, students will be creating their own stuffed rabbits. All parents are invited to help with decorating our special rabbits on Monday, December 19, from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

REMINDER: Fabric needs to be brought to school during the first week of December.

CHECK THIS OUT



An excellent site that should be helpful for weekly spelling homework assignments:

www.dictionarylink.com

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Team