



Fourth Grade “LILYPAD”

Lions, elephants, and tigers, oh my! Students used the writing process to create their own fable. They selected a moral and developed a central event to teach a lesson; students demonstrated an understanding of the elements of a fable. Throughout the process students were able to conference with peers to give and receive feedback. We are proud of their publishing skills. In addition, we will be polishing our figurative language skills while using sensory words and descriptive language as we continue on our journey with writing expository text this quarter. We will begin our next genre study in reading, realistic fiction. Students will read a novel by John Reynolds Gardiner, Stone Fox. Throughout the genre study they will examine the elements of realistic fiction. Identifying setting, theme, and the role of the antagonist and protagonist in the novel, we will also analyze how the characters respond to change. We are also continuing our shared inquiry discussion; students read a narrative by Langston Hughes, “Thank You, M’am.” We are developing our critical thinking skills by using discourse moves to share ideas and reflect in partners, small group, and whole group discussions.

In Science, Fourth graders have been investigating pollution and its effect on ecosystems. After researching the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding environments, students were able to investigate how different groups of people affect the bay. Students were able to develop a proposal on how each group can make changes to protect the bay. As our unit on environmental science comes to a close, we have been comparing what we have learned about ecosystems and the environment. In the upcoming marking period we are looking forward to our study of chemistry as we plan to investigate the states of matter. Check out the Chesapeake Bay website for some excellent information regarding the bay and ecosystems! (<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/>)

In social studies this marking period, we completed our map study of the three regions of Maryland (Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont Plateau, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain.) Students identified the natural, capital, and human resources in each region. Check out our Maryland Diamantes on the hallway bulletin board!

This marking period, students will analyze the social, economic, and political characteristics of societies native to the Eastern Woodlands region of North America. In media center partners will be researching tribes native to the Eastern Woodlands and developing their computer literacy skills by using Microsoft Publisher to create a brochure

describing the characteristics of each tribe. A few weeks ago we journeyed into the past on our field trip to Historic St. Mary's City. St. Mary's City was established in 1634 and is the first capital of Maryland. While in St. Mary's City students had the opportunity to participate in hands on activities helping us to discover more about the lives of the Yaocomico and Piscataway tribes and their interactions with early colonists. The field trip was a wonderful opportunity to introduce our next unit on the colonization of North America. Soon we will be discovering the mysteries of Roanoke and the Jamestown and Plymouth Settlements.

In Ms. Whitby and Ms. Shafer's math classes, Unit 2 explores Number Computation. Students will identify number patterns and relationships and how to represent those relationships with variables. In addition, they will become more proficient with basic facts when computing with both small and large numbers. Students are determining strategies to identify factors and multiples of numbers and to then identify greatest common factor and least common multiple. They will build on these skills next marking period with our unit on fractions. There will be an emphasis on the development of mathematical language as the students extend their knowledge of numeric patterns and relationships. We continue to emphasize that students should bring their reference books home each night in order to review concepts. An online site we've used to practice our math skills is:
<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm>

In Ms. Driscoll and Mrs. Kunst's math classes, Unit 2 focuses on Geometry. Students identified the different polygons, circles, and geometric solids. They used these figures to use critical thinking skills to find the area, perimeter, and angle measurements. Students investigated different types of angles and angle relationships. After winter break, we will move into Unit 3 which will allow students to investigate fractions and decimals. By the end of the unit, students will be able to solve fraction and decimal problems using all operations. Students will also be able convert fractions to decimals and percents and vice versa.

Thank you,

The Fourth Grade Team