



# Fourth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr, Elementary

Ms. Futrovsky

Mr. Humphrey

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Mrs. Mayers

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Dear fourth grade families,

We hope that you and your family enjoyed your winter vacation and that you're feeling rested up and ready to tackle the New Year. We appreciate your continued support and encouragement.



The beginning of the New Year often feels like a fresh start to many of us. Some 4th grade backpacks need to be refreshed a little, too. If possible, will you please help your child clean out and organize his or her backpack? If students don't know what can be thrown away, they should check with their teachers. School supplies, especially pencils and glue sticks, may need to be replenished at this time as well.

This is a particularly busy time of the academic year. We will wrap up the second marking period towards the end of the month. We ask that you please look over homework and sign the assignment notebook each evening. Please write us a note or talk with us if you have any questions. Thank you.

## Important Dates:

- January 2—No school
- January 3—school resumes, PTA Meeting (6:30)
- January 16—No school—Martin Luther King Jr Day
- January 18—PTA Spirit Night at Longhorn
- January 20—2nd Marking Period Ends
- January 23—no school for students
- January 24—3rd Marking Period Begins, Principal's Coffee (7pm)
- January 27—Family, Fun, and Fitness Night!
- January 30 & 31—Vision and Hearing Testing



## Reading

Our reading focus is reading historical and realistic

fiction to analyze how cultural and historic detail help a read better un-

derstand what's taking place in the text. We will also be looking at ana-



lyzing a character's trait based upon actions and dialogue in a text.

## Writing

Our current writing focus is on writing to inform. Students are learning to organize multiple paragraphs with an introductory paragraph, a topic sentence for each paragraph, and a concluding paragraph. Students chose their own animal topics, Please encourage your child to research information at home or at the local library.

## Science

We will finish our second unit by exploring environmental factors and the effects they have on the people of

Maryland. Students will participate in a variety of demonstrations and investigations to explore behaviors that waste natural resources and/or cause environmental harm and explore behaviors that maintain or improve the environment. Finally, students will understand a variety of human activities that have a positive impact on the environment.

## Social Studies

We will continue our second unit, called "Migration: Three Worlds Collide." In this unit, we

study immigration to America from the 1600s to the present day. We learn why people immigrate, what challenges they face, and how they help shape American society. Students will also learn about the importance of analyzing multiple perspectives as they are introduced to the culture of immigration to Maryland during the 1900s. Students will use primary source documents, pictures, and expository text to learn about the culture distinct to this early settlement.

