



Fourth Grade November News

William B. Gibbs Jr Elementary

Mrs. Mayers

Mr. Huston

Ms. Futrovsky

Mr. Delescavage

Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

We have had a great first marking period at Gibbs and are looking forward to finishing October on a positive note! We enjoyed meeting you at Back to School Night. Students have been reading for twenty minutes each night. Please remind your child to write each completed book on their reading contract and also a short summary. These forms are checked each week. Each student is expected to read at least two books (on their level) per month. Please sign your child's planner each night when your child has finished his/her homework. Also, with the change of weather is upon us, make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the Fall weather.

Parent Conferences

We look forward to meeting with parents in November. Conferences will be held on November 10th and 11th. We will be contacting you to set up a conference time if you have not already done so. The homework policy will also be distributed with the report cards at the conferences.



Important Dates:

- November 1:
Second Marking Period Begins. PTA meeting
 - November 3:
6:30 Study Circles
 - November 4:
Ident-a-Kid Program
 - November 10 & 11:
early release day and parent/teacher conferences. (1:00 dismissal)
 - November 17: 6:30
Study Circles
 - November 18: PTA
Turkey Bingo
 - November 21: Grand-
parents Day Tea
 - November 23: Early
Dismissal
 - November 24 & 25:
Thanksgiving—No
School
 - November 29: 7:00
Chorus concert at Gibbs
Elementary School
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Curriculum Overview

Reading

This month, we will be studying realistic fiction. The primary focus of our literature studies includes identifying the characteristics of a realistic fiction text, analyzing the literary elements of fantasy, including setting. Students will also distinguish how a character traits impact the story. Finally we will be discussing common themes found in realistic and historical fiction. Students have been responding to stance questions to develop reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Fourth grade students should be reading 20 minutes at home every evening.

Writing

Fourth grade students will be writing to inform this month. They will be asking questions about a topic and then taking time to research that topic. We will be using the writing process to put together a final informational piece. Steps of the Writing Process are: Prewriting, Drafting, Editing/Revising, and Publishing. Spelling

We are continuing to create word lists based on the needs of each child. The

students study a specific spelling pattern.

Science

In Science, we will be exploring the characteristics of organisms which help them survive and reproduce in specific habitats. Students will investigate the natural and human-made factors that disturb a stable environment and decide how human decisions and actions can be both beneficial and harmful to the environment. Students will continue observing how living and non-living organisms are dependent on each other in their terrarium, and aquariums.

Our study is now shifting to understanding how humans can change the environment in both positive and negative ways. We will be exploring the health of the Chesapeake Bay and learn about the different point of views of who is causing harm to the Bay.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are continuing to learn about how Native American groups used and modified the land in the past. Our next topic will be to learn about the other two cultures which would eventually merge with the Native Americans in Maryland. We will be taking time to learn about western Europeans and

west African cultures. This will help students develop an understanding of how these cultures will eventually react to one another when they eventually interact in Maryland.

Thanksgiving

