



Fourth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary

Mr. Delescavage ~ Ms. Futrovsky ~ Mr. Humphrey ~ Mr. Huston ~ Mrs. Mayers

Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

We have had a great first month at Gibbs and are looking forward to finishing October on a positive note! We enjoyed meeting you at Back to School Night. Students should be reading for at least twenty minutes each night and filling out their reading log. Please remind your child to write each completed book on their reading log and a short summary. These forms are checked each week and should be filled out for Monday through Thursday night. Each student is expected to read at least two books (on their level) per month. Please sign your child's planner and reading log sheet 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 cool 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.

Halloween Celebration

On Friday, October 28th, each class will have a Halloween party. Costumes are optional. If your child is planning to wear a costume, please make sure it is

appropriate for the school setting. If you do not want your child to participate in the Halloween Celebration, please send in a note to let us know as soon as possible.



Important Dates:

- **Friday—10/1**
 - early dismissal—1pm
- **Monday—10/3**
 - Interims go home
- **Tuesday—10/4**
 - PTA Meeting—6:30 pm
- **Wednesday—10/5**
 - Walk Your Child to School Day
- **Thursday—10/6**
 - Study Circles Info Meeting—6:30—Media Center
- **Monday—10/10**
 - Parent Visitation Day from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- **Thursday — 10/13**
 - Gibbs Math/Literacy Night—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday—10/15**
 - PTA Fun Run at Gibbs—8:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday—10/19**
 - Principal's Coffee—10:00 a.m. to 11:00—Media Center; PTA Spirit Night at Baja Fresh
- **Thursday—10/20**
 - Study Circles Session 1—Media Center—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Friday—10/21**
 - No School For Teachers and Students
- **Thursday—10/27**
 - Individual Student Pictures; Study Circles Session 2— Media Center—6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Friday—10/28**
 - First Marking Period Ends; Halloween Classroom Parties—2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., PTA Fall Harvest—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Monday—10/31**
 - No School for Students; Professional Day for Teachers

Curriculum Overview

Reading

This month, we will be meeting in reading groups and students will be exploring Fantasy. The primary focus of our literature studies includes identifying the characteristics of fantasy and analyzing the literary elements of fantasy, including setting. Students will also distinguish between real and fantasy elements in the stories they are reading. Students have been responding to stance questions to develop reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. Fourth grade students should be reading at least 20 minutes at home every evening.

Writing

Fourth grade students have finished up writing their personal narratives about a memorial event in their lives. They need to be reminded that writing is truly a process which involves many steps toward achieving the final product. Steps of the

writing process are: prewriting, drafting, editing/revising, and publishing. Our next step is to use what we know about the characteristics of fables and have the students write their own fables. They are continuing to practice their independent writing in their writer's notebook. This writing practice will help sharpen their writing skills for future writing assignments.

Spelling

We are continuing to create word lists based on spelling patterns. Students choose words from different lists based on particular skills. This quarter we will focus on suffixes and how they change the meaning of word. Please encourage your child to practice his/her spelling words at home.

Science

In Science, we are learning about how organisms in our environment are dependent on each other. Students are observing how living and non-living organisms are dependent on each other in their ecosystems. 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 studying similarities and differences in regions around the United States and the three regions in Maryland. We will then move into how people have modified the environment in the past in Maryland.

Contact Information

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