



Fourth Grade News

December 2011

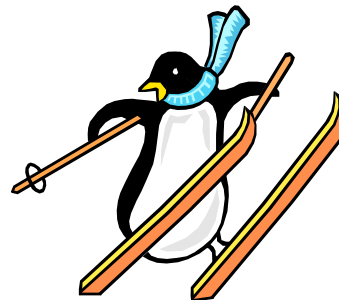
William B. Gibbs Jr, Elementary School

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

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

The second marking period is well under way and many new things are taking place here in our fourth grade classrooms. Encourage your child to tell you what he/she is learning in class. You may be surprised by some of the facts and insightful comments that he/she shares with you.

As your child reads to you each night, stop your child every few pages and ask him/her questions about what he/she has just read. This helps build comprehension. We ask that you please continue to look over your child's homework and sign the reading log and spelling log each evening.



At this point in the school year, school supplies, particularly pencils, crayons, and erasers may need to be replenished. In addition, you may find it beneficial to peek in your child's backpack and clean it out or organize it. As always, we thank you for your continued assistance and support.

Important Dates for December 2011

- ~Dec.1 make up pictures
- ~Dec. 2-9 Book Fair
- ~ Dec. 5 Interims sent home
- ~Dec. 6 PTA meeting @ 6:30
- ~Dec.13 Spirit Night @ IHOP
- ~Dec. 20 No Homework assigned! Happy Hanukkah!
- ~Dec.23 CHS Band Concert at Gibbs
- ~Dec 24-Jan 2 HOLIDAYS/
WINTER BREAK

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team

Reading

The students will read books from the historical fiction genre. Students will be able to determine how realistic fiction and historical fiction are different from other genres. They will also identify characteristics of historical fiction to determine what makes a book historical fiction and why some authors write this genre. Students will



soon read non-fiction texts. While reading, students will utilize text

features as well as a variety of comprehension strategies to help them understand the information they read.

Writing

Students researched and organized information about a Native American tribe into paragraphs. They are now developing skills to sequence details and write more clearly. Fourth graders will publish an informational piece about their tribes.



Science

We will explore 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.



Social Studies

We are in the middle of our study of three different cultures: the Yaocomaco, Western Europeans, and West Africans. We are learning how the Native American culture affected Maryland's environment in the past. We are also learning about different Native American values and ways of life. We will continue compare and contrast the lifestyles of all three cultures.

Next we will study the immigrant experience of today's immigrants to Maryland. Students will learn about the modern immigration experience through the stories of four Maryland residents in the MCPS produced video Yearning to Breathe.

