



January 2012 Newsletter

Fourth Grade

Ronald McNair Elementary

Reading

We began reading this year by reading and analyzing procedural text. We are also working on identifying the main idea and summarize an article by answering the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, and why). Additionally, we will begin analyzing flyers and studying plays.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we will begin studying how our country has changed with **immigration** and the **influence of other cultures**. There are four main sections to this unit:

- Migration to Maryland today
- Migration to the U.S.
- Maryland migration in the past
- U.S. migration in the past.

Science

We have been learning about the parts of a well designed investigation. We will be conducting pollution experiments and studying the environmental effects of acid rain, fertilizer and road salts. We will link our study to the terrarium and aquarium ecosystems that we have in our classroom.

Math

We have begun our third unit in math. Students have been working on fractions in both concrete and abstract ways. They have been using models, manipulatives and pictures. The unit will also include decimals and probability. The fourth grade students will explore the following questions:

- How are numbers that represent fractional parts compared?
- How are common and decimal fractions alike and different?
- How are models used to show how fractional parts are combined or separated?
- What strategies can be used to solve estimation problems with fractions and decimals?
- How is probability represented numerically?
- How is the likelihood of an event determined and communicated?

Writing

We will soon begin a unit on **writing to persuade** others to take a pro or con position on an issue. The students will be writing **multi-paragraph essays** that demonstrate their understanding of using facts and their opinion to persuade others.

Fourth Grade Team
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Reminders

- Look for **Data Notebooks, including Learning Skills** on Fridays
- Students are to bring their **agenda** to school each day.
- Students are to return their signed **Data Notebooks** to school each Monday.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 16:
MLK Day—no school

January 20:
end of quarter 2

January 23:
Professional Day—no school