



# February 2012 Newsletter

## Fourth Grade

Ronald McNair Elementary

Fourth Grade Team  
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### Reading

Throughout February students will be reading **biographies and autobiographies**. We will focus on identifying the theme of a text and including support from their reading to explain an answer. In addition, we will continue to focus on specific **reading and test taking strategies** to prepare for the MSA test this month. **Make sure your child is reading at least 20 minutes each night.**

### 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.

### 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.

### Math

We are in our **third unit** in math. Students have been working on fractions and decimal fractions in both concrete and abstract ways. They have been using models and pictures. They are also learning to apply their understanding of fractions to the concept of probability.

**Unit 4** will focus on patterns in time measurement, patterns in multiplication and division, and computation strategies. Students should continue practicing multiplication and division facts at home for at least 10 minutes a night. **They will really need to know their facts in Unit 4!**

### Science

This month, we are completing unit 2 with an emphasis on the steps of a well-designed scientific investigation. Unit 3 focuses on **chemistry**.

Students participate in a variety of hands-on activities with matter.

They will be observing **liquids, solids, and gases** and will be experimenting with the effects of temperature on states of matter. These investigations will demonstrate how matter changes states.

### FIELD TRIP

On February 24th representatives of the National Museum of African History and Culture are coming to our classrooms to help students strengthen their historical thinking skills as they explore original historical artifacts and other records of the past.

### 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.
- The **4 R's for Homework:**

**Read** for 20 minutes each night.

**Review**—homework is meant as a review of concepts already covered in class.

**Run**—kids need play and exercise!

**Rest**—a good night's sleep makes for an alert student.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**February 14th:**

Valentine's Day party

**February 20th:**

Presidents Day—no school

**February 24th:** In school field trip

**February** is African American History Month