



December 2011 Newsletter

Fourth Grade

Ronald McNair Elementary

Reading

This month, students will combine reading, social studies and writing to produce a research essay on a Native American tribe. They will use reading time to research the tribe and learn more about how text features help a reader better comprehend a text. In addition, the students are focusing on how to identify the main idea and summarize an article by answering the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, and why).

Social Studies

In further preparation for our writing project, we have begun to study how different tribes across the United States have adapted and modified their environment to meet their needs, and define their culture. We will also be able to locate physical and human characteristics of places and explain how these characteristics have affected the

Writing

We are learning how to write multi-paragraph essays as we begin our Social Studies/Writing research project on a Native American tribe. Our research will include an assortment of text features, and our final papers will have a bibliography. When your child chooses a tribe to research, please take him or her to the library and check out a book on the subject (but only one please—the entire fourth grade works on the project at the same time.)

Math

In math, we are working hard to master the objectives for Unit 2. The fourth grade students will be assessed on the following indicators:

- Write numeric expressions in equivalent forms using the commutative and associative properties
- Find multiples and factors of a number
- Demonstrate mastery of multiplication and division fact families
- Simplify numeric expressions involving parentheses
- Use variables in open sentences
- Solve for the unknown in an equation with whole number coefficients
- Generalize a pattern by stating a rule.

Please make sure your child practices basic multiplication and division facts every day!

Science

We have begun Unit 2, in which we will be able to identify how human activities affect the environment, how some individuals have a better chance of surviving and reproducing than others, and how scientific knowledge is based on evidence gained from research and investigations.

Fourth Grade Team

Cory Anastasi
Aisha Bryant
Caitlin Faunce
Kerri Hogan
Jessica Mollard
Stacey Shorter

Reminders

Students are to bring in a library book about the Native American group that has been assigned.

- 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.