

# 4th Grade News

## Jumpin' January

A new year has just begun and we continue to have a lot of fun activities in 4th grade! Please take a minute to sit down with your child and discuss what is going on in our classrooms! You might be surprised to hear about all of the happenings in 4th grade!

Check out the calendar—we have a lot going on this month!

### Math:

#### 4th Grade

In Math, we are finishing up with unit 2. Unit 3 will cover fractions (equivalent, comparing, adding/subtracting), decimal numbers (adding/subtracting, ordering) and probability (as fractions). Finding equivalent fractions and decimal numbers are some of the biggest challenges of this unit.

#### 5th Grade

Unit 3 is already underway and is a very big unit. We are covering the

following topics: decimal numbers (rounding, ordering, adding/subtracting, multiplying/dividing), fractions (equivalent, adding/subtracting, ordering, mixed numbers, multiplying/dividing, relating fractions to decimal numbers), probability and percentages (of sets, as a fraction, and decimal number). Please see the note on the back of this newsletter.

### Language Arts:

We will finish this quarter by working on Historical Fiction, literary terms and reading to be informed units. With the Maryland School Assessment (MSA, for short) coming up soon, there will also be many lessons on test taking strategies.

In spelling, we will continue our program. We have seen progress with this program and the students seem to really enjoy the activities!

In writing, we will continue our Native American Research Projects. The

students have been researching via the library and computer lab. Soon, the students will be organizing all of their research onto a poster in order to present it in our "Native American Museum" - Date coming soon!

### Social Studies:

The students will continue studying tribes from five regions of the United States. They will be focusing on the environmental impact on each culture. They will also make an artifact from the tribe he or she is studying. **Don't forget this take home project is due January 27th!**

### Science

This month, we will be focusing on the environment. Students will be using the knowledge they have acquired from our ecosystems to look at what effects humans have on the environment, both negatively and positively.



## Sligo Creek Elementary School

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### January Birthdays

Layla	1/7
Caroline K.	1/10
Lee	1/11
Jonny	1/13
Mathis	1/15
Anya	1/21
Kevin	1/27
Spencer	1/31



### 4th Grade Teachers

Ms. Schrank  
(Team Leader)  
Ms. Wright  
Mme. Priser  
Mme. Kellinger

## Tips For Kids!

- In mathematics, it is very important that you continue to practice your multiplication facts every night! If you think you have mastered all of your facts, you be the teacher! Try quizzing your parents, an older brother or sister or another friend. Use your memory and/or flashcards to determine if they have given you the correct answer!
- In math, we will also be beginning our unit on fractions. Fractions are EVERYWHERE! When you are at home, in a store, or at a restaurant, look for those fractions and point them out to whomever you are with. You may cut up a pizza into eighths or you may cut a piece of cake in half in order to share with a friend!
- You are reading 20 minutes each night. Remember, **READING IS THINKING!** It is important to be able to explain to someone how you felt about a character, a connection you made to the story or a prediction that you made about your book. Each night after you read, write down something that you thought about while you read. Later, tell a friend, parent, or teacher about what you were thinking about while reading!
- Remember when you are practicing your spelling words, there is a pattern that you should be following. Your pattern is there for a reason! Knowing your pattern will make it easier to spell your words. When you study your spelling words, think about that pattern before you begin to try to spell it. When you have written down your word, go back and check to make sure the word follows your pattern.
- We are continuing to research more and more about our Native American Tribes. Remember when you are taking notes, you should not be writing complete sentences, you should be writing only the important facts. In order to practice your note-taking skills, grab a newspaper and take notes on a newspaper article. Use your notes to summarize the article for your parents. They will be very impressed!

## Calendar of Events

# January 2012

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

1	2 No School	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 No School	17	18	19	20 End of Second Marking Period	21
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24	25	26	27 <b>Native American Take Home Pro- ject Due</b>	28
29	30	31				

# Important Vocabulary For This Month

## Math Terms

**Fraction:** A fraction is a number that can name a part of a whole.

**Denominator:** The denominator represents the total number of parts of the whole you are talking about.

**Numerator:** The numerator represents the number of equal parts of the whole you are talking about.

**Equivalent Fractions:** Fractions that name the same amount are equivalent fractions. The fractions  $\frac{2}{6}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$  are equivalent fractions.

**Equivalent Decimals Numbers:** Decimal numbers that name the same amount are equivalent decimal numbers. The decimal numbers 0.5 and 0.50 are equivalent decimal numbers.

**Decimal number:** any number written with a decimal point in the number. A decimal number falls between two whole numbers (eg, 1.5 falls between 1 and 2). Decimal numbers smaller than 1 are sometimes called decimal fractions (eg, five-tenths is written 0.5).

## Reading Terms

**Realistic fiction:** A genre of literature that implies that everything in the story is consistent with the lives of real people on our world. It means that the plot, characters, setting, and events could have happened. (LA guide, unit 2)

**Genre:** A particular type or category of writing that can include poetry, memoirs, biographies, realistic fiction, historical fiction, and fantasies.

**Organizational Text Structures:** Informational text features that include description, sequence, comparison, cause and effect and help with text comprehension.

**Mood:** Mood is the emotional atmosphere of the text, or the feeling that the author wants to give the reader.

**Theme:** The big idea present in a book. It is not intended to teach or preach (like fables) and is often not directly stated. The theme is inferred through the characters, actions, and setting.

**Point of View:** The perspective of a character in a story.

**Reading Fluency:** The speed, accuracy, expressiveness and flow of a read aloud.

## Research Update

We are following the research process to find information about American Indian tribes. The process is as follows: Ask questions, Gather information, Organize the information, Publish the information, and Present the information. We are currently finishing the "gathering information" stage and some students have even moved onto the "organizing

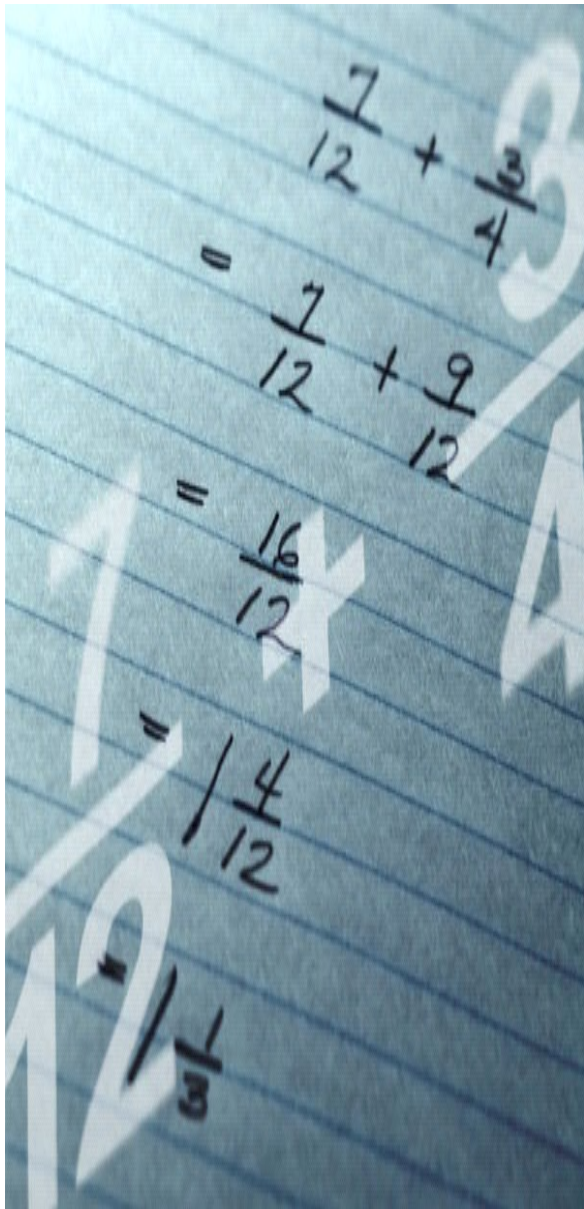
the information" and "publishing" stages of their research. The students are learning a lot and are excited about sharing their new knowledge with others.

Please be aware that the students have a take home project based on their research that is due on the 27th of January. For



this project, the students need to create a three dimensional object that represents something about their tribe. It must be portable and home made.

Finally, we will have an American Indian museum for the parents. Date coming soon!



## 5th Grade Math Information

We will soon be covering a number of concepts in math that require some prior knowledge of other concepts that your child may or may not have had last year. Please review with your child the following concepts that were covered in 4th grade in order to ensure his/her grasp of the numerous complex topics that we are about to cover in unit 3 (these are in the order that they will be covered):

1. comparing and ordering decimal numbers
2. Adding/subtracting decimal numbers
3. Long division with remainders
4. 2 digit by 2-3 digit multiplication
5. Equivalent fractions
6. Adding/subtracting fractions with like denominators
7. Improper fractions to mixed numbers
8. Relationships between decimal numbers and fractions (transforming fractions into decimal numbers and vice-versa)
9. Probability written as a fraction

### **HELP!!!**

**We will need help setting up our Native American Museum. Please look for the notice in next week's Friday folder for the date of the museum and opportunities to volunteer with set-up. The museum will be the first week of February. The students have been working hard and are excited to share their new knowledge with everyone!**