



Fourth Grade News



Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

December 2017

Here are some of the topics we have been working on in fourth grade, as well as our units of study for the month of December.

Math

In the month of December, students begin by applying operations to solve problems involving conversions of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit. Students work with measurement units within the same system of units including metric and customary units of length and weight, and time. Students will then extend understandings about the operation of division and the relationship between multiplication and division developed last year in third grade to find whole number quotients by dividing up to 4-digit by 1-digit numbers. Students will use the terms dividend, divisor, quotient, and remainder. Remainders are interpreted based on the contexts of problems. Students use strategies and explanations based on place value and the properties of operations to estimate and calculate quotients.

Reading/Writing/ Language Arts

In reading, students will explore how information presented visually and quantitatively contributes to the creation of business proposals as part of the Maryland Economics Inquiry Project. Later in the month, students

continue to deepen understanding in social studies by reading informational texts on the topic of European exploration, including firsthand accounts, and paraphrase key details to summarize. Students analyze the cause and effect text structure to understand the concepts and ideas associated with the Columbian Exchange. Students will read and collect information about exploration across multiple texts and generate inquiry questions during collaborative discussions.

In writing, students are synthesizing information gathered to write an opinion about which business would best support their community. They will combine their informative and opinion pieces to develop a multimedia product to advocate for the business of their choice and present facts and reasons to support their opinion.

Science

The topic of study in science in December focuses on human events that both negatively and positively impact the environment. Students identify and describe ways individuals and groups assess the influence of human technologies on the environment. Students will investigate the natural or human-made factors that can disrupt a stable environment and consider how human decisions and actions throughout the

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state of Maryland can be both beneficial and harmful to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Social Studies

In December, students will study economics in Gaithersburg to create a framework for examining the role that economics played in determining the destinations, goals, and actions of early European explorers. They will begin by exploring the relationships among regional specialization and interdependence of people in Maryland today. They will then move

to explore basic decision-making concepts involved in the production and consumption of goods and services using examples. Finally, students will be challenged to identify opportunity costs of decisions made by individuals, businesses, and government. This all incorporates into the Maryland Economics Inquiry Project. Additionally, students will explore a variety of multimedia to gather and record information about destinations, goals, and actions of explorers during the age of European exploration.

Upcoming Events in December

Nov. 29-Dec. 5: Book Fair

Nov. 30: PTA Holiday Shop

Dec. 13: Student Picture Retake Day

Dec. 25- Jan. 1: No School - Winter Break