

# Fourth Grade News



Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

November 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 November.

## Reading/Writing/Language Arts

In the first weeks of November, students discuss the characteristics of plays, compare a visual representation of a play with the text, as well as discuss poetic elements including verse, rhythm, and meter. Students compare the themes of the play and poem previously read with a traditional tale.

As part of the Maryland Economics Inquiry project, students explore how information presented visually and quantitatively contributes to the creation of business proposals. Students use reference materials to determine word meaning and choose domain specific words in writing.

In writing, students compose poetry using a variety of strategies. Lessons incorporate language usage skills and develop student's ability to focus on a moment in time by developing an experience with precise details. By incorporating similes and metaphors in their poetry, students develop an understanding of how to apply these language skills when composing any type of writing. Students analyze the themes in poetry and ways authors choose to conclude their poems.

## Math

In the month of November, students extend understandings about place value and properties of operations, including the distributive property, to multiply a whole number of up to 4 digits by a 1-digit whole number. Rectangular arrays, area models, and equations are used to represent and explain calculations. Students are encouraged to flexibly decompose numbers and select from a repertoire of strategies, including mental math, to calculate

products. Toward the end of November, students apply knowledge of operations and make connections between geometry and numbers to solve problems involving conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit. They use multiplicative reasoning to develop two column tables of equivalent measurements. Students consider measurement units within the same system of units including: kilometer, meter, centimeter; kilogram, gram; pound, ounce; and hour, minute, and second.

Students will develop an understanding of a formula. Understandings about the attributes of a rectangle from earlier grades are extended to develop formulas for the area and perimeter of rectangles. The critical understanding that area measurement is derived from linear measurements builds upon work with rectangular arrays in Grades 2 and 3. Students have opportunities to apply area and perimeter formulas and use whole number operations to solve problems, including problems involving unknown side lengths.

## Science

Beginning in November, students explore concepts and topics related to natural and human impact on the environment. Students continue to observe and work with the model ecosystems they constructed during marking period 1 to collect observable evidence of the relationships and interactions that occur among the living and non-living components that make up an ecosystem. Students identify and describe various habitats found within an ecosystem. Then, students identify factors that affect an organism's ability to survive in an ecosystem as well as events that may contribute to changes in an ecosystem. Students also investigate how human activity can impact an organism's habitat within an ecosystem.

### **Social Studies**

Social studies continues to combine the examination of students' world today with the development of the traditional chronology of United States history through a study of economics today and during the time of European exploration. Students practice effort, motivation, and persistence academic success skills including vital attitudes and behaviors which are essential for students when completing tasks and reaching goals. They examine and apply the skill of elaboration as they combine or add to ideas, processes, and products.

In November, students study economics where they live to create a framework for examining the role that economics played in determining the destinations, goals, and actions of early European explorers. Students begin by exploring relationships among regional specialization and interdependence of people in Maryland today. Students then explore basic decision-making concepts involved in the production and consumption of goods and services using examples from individuals, businesses, and government.

#### **Important Dates**

**November 7** - PTA Meeting 7pm  
**November 9** - End of 1<sup>st</sup> marking period  
**November 9** - Early Release @ 1:20  
**November 10 & 17** - Early Release @  
1:20 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
**November 22** - Report cards go home  
**November 22** - Early Release @ 1:20PM,  
Holiday  
**November 23-24** - No school,  
Thanksgiving  
**November 27-30** - Book Fair