

# Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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## Persistence

Wow. Persistence. You modeled it. Your children practiced it. We all embraced it. So evident when you kept trying to get into the zoom.... despite links not linking, passcodes not seeming to work, waiting in the waiting room... does she even know I'm here? Persistence as students cut and pasted work into their writing journals. "I can't find my scissors.... I don't have glue.... I'm missing these pages... cut the bottom or the top?" Persistence as fourth graders lit a bulb. So wonderful to let them figure it out.... to see them offer help to each other... explain their thinking... to watch them stay a little later, keep at it, try again... and oh, the joy, when it works. Finally you are in the zoom, the task is complete, the bulb lights. Thank you for continuing to model persistence and practicing patience. We have extended grace to each other. Our community grows stronger. We are blessed.

## Weekly Quiz Routine:

Fourth graders have a weekly quiz every Friday. This covers material taught that week, includes a reflection on the 20 minutes of nightly reading homework and a written summary of an article from "Time for Kids". This weekly quiz is a jump for fourth graders. If we were together in class I would make this task accessible for all learners using a variety of supports. Some students benefit from reading the TFK article with me, in a small group. Others benefit from part of their written work being scripted (student talks, teacher writes). I attempt to make this process reasonable and still maintain its integrity... a measure of what students are learning. How does this look in the virtual learning model? I'll be including a video with me reading the Time for Kids (TFK) article aloud. I'll be walking all students through the written summary for the first two weeks. Parents, you are welcome to support your child as needed, letting me know what level of independence your fourth grader was able to maintain.

Students take notes for the weekly quiz in their "Notes for Friday's Quiz" composition book. Note taking is an emerging skill for most students, so I am okay with printing out notes and cutting and pasting into the composition book. Learning to study requires effort and time. Strategies that work best for some might not work for others. Where to start? See the study tips list sent home in our first Friday Pick up/ Drop off day.

## Social Studies:

The focus of fourth grade Social Studies is Washington State. We typically begin with geography. This being an election year, however, we start with the rights and duties of citizens-- civics. We'll talk about how government works with attention to levels of government (tribal, federal, state, county, city) and branches of government (legislative, executive and judicial). Know these topics are visited many times throughout your child's education. I'll do my best to keep the focus on Washington State. Take this opportunity to share your thinking with your child. Explain your experiences with citizenship and how you approach your rights and duties. Learning ahead!

## Dates to Remember

Look to the classroom webpage each day for a daily schedule with links and detailed assignments.

<https://www.guadalupe-school.org/classes/4th-grade-home/>

**Thursday, 9/17:** Town Hall Zoom

**Friday, 9/25:** Jog-a-thon done remotely.

## Parks Pass

There are many great things about being a fourth grade family... and one of the perks is free entrance into our nation's National Parks. The Every Kid Outdoors program provides free entry for fourth graders and their families to National Parks for the 2020-2021 school year.

Go to <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/pass.htm>

You need to have your printed pass and bring it with you when you visit. Electronic copies aren't accepted. Your pass has a unique code. That means you can't copy it and give it to friends. The pass must be presented in hard copy.

**Your child's pass was sent home during the first "Friday Pick Up" day.**

How it works: Show your pass to a ranger when you enter. If you visit a site that charges entrance fees per person, the pass admits all children under 16 and up to three adults for free.

Sounds too good to be true? Go to the website before your trip and check ahead to make sure your plans are covered.