

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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SQR3

Last week we learned a new comprehension strategy to use when reading informational text, SQR3. When reading textbooks we begin with a general Survey of the assigned pages. This involves noticing titles, headings, subheadings, pictures, charts, maps, captions and bold face words. Next fourth graders change headings and subheadings into Questions. This can be a challenge for fourth graders! I remind students of the 5Ws and 1H (Who, What, When, Where, Why and How). I take the heading and place the question word in front of it. *“Who was an important year? What was an important year? When was an important year? Where was an important year?....”* What makes sense to you?” Once we have the questions, we **Read** the text, looking for answers to those questions. Together we **Recite** important information. Finally we **Review**. This intentional and active reading leads to better comprehension and retention. Reading instruction in primary grades focuses on decoding skills, then fluency. Fourth grade continues work with fluency and adds a strong focus on comprehension. We learn and practice strategies to aid in comprehending everything we read, across all subject areas. These strategies can be used life long.

Knitting, Anyone?

I refer to myself as a Covid Knitter. Last March, my daughter Eleanor (home from college) asked where her knitting needles were. This was the spark.

For the first time in over 40 years I am knitting again. I am every bit a novice, but find the Youtube instructional videos accessible. I pause, slow down, speed up, and look for a different teacher or method until I find the right fit. I started with a scarf. Now I have quite the collection of scarves, hats, fingerless gloves, sunglass cases and shawls. I also have a collection of needles and yarn, all part of the process of finding what works for me.

Knitting soothes my soul. Stressful meetings, long trainings, difficult discussions, bad TV... not quite so bad if I have my knitting in front of me. Of course, I see the possibilities for fourth graders... if the desire is there.

Last week Nicole brought her knitting to zoom. Lena followed. Kristian mentioned that his second grade teacher back in Germany had taught him to knit. I'm not the one to offer instruction in knitting, but I can certainly share my supplies and enthusiasm. Next week's drop off will include an **optional** bag of knitting needles and yarn for any fourth grader and family members who want to join in. I'll list my favorite get started videos here. No pressure. It's meant to be relaxing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vm6oaYzHyA>

How to cast on, knitting for total beginners

<https://youtu.be/Egp4NRhIMDg>

The knit stitch

<https://youtu.be/xmve4Q5FWEw>

Rhyme to help with the knit stitch

Small Groups, Zoom Extension:

We started last week. After each Monday-Thursday morning zoom, four students stay back past the whole class zoom time. We get to unmute all, discuss the day and practice reading fluency. In the weeks ahead we'll share writing, talk science and work on real world math problems... anything that is better suited for small group discussion.

For now, small group is only 15 minutes long. These small groups will stay the same for a few weeks, then change to offer new dynamics.

Monday: Charlie, Lena, Emma, Kristian
Tuesday: Lincoln, Riley, Susie, Anthony
Wednesday: Liam H, Logan, Janessa, Katy
Thursday: Liam O'Toole, Kirubel, Nicole, Evie

Turn in Folder, Back at You:

When fourth graders turn in their work on Friday they will find work from the previous week, corrected. They will also find several hand outs needed for the weeks ahead. Please put handouts in your "Save This Folder". Please find time to review all corrected work. This is one way I communicate progress. Thank you!