

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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Math:

We spend the first half of this week reviewing all content covered so far, chapters 1 and 2. We spend the second half of the week relaxing. Math in Focus workbook pages 41-48 might take some time. For this reason I'll encourage fourth graders to work each morning, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but then stop wherever they are and turn in all pages 41-48 regardless of where they are in the process. If they complete 20 problems each day they will finish the review. This is a realistic expectation for some, but not for all. Know that I will encourage your child to work diligently but also feel okay with stopping, even if the work is not complete.

Science:

Last week fourth graders asked, "What is the effect on the force of attraction between two magnets as the distance between them changes?" We measured force in washers. How many washers placed in the balance broke the magnet attraction? We measured distance between magnets with small yellow spacer chips. We asked questions such as "Where should you place the washers in the cup (random or carefully stacked?). Does it make a difference whether you place the washers in the cup gently or drop them in with force?" First, we recorded our data in a T chart. Then we created a graph. Along the way we also used our data to make predictions and tested those predictions. Yes, all this in two zooms.

From FOSS *Home School Connections*: Find out how magnets are used around the home. Some ways might be to hold kitchen cabinets closed, to keep a refrigerator door shut, or to stick things to the refrigerator door. Talk with your family about the magnets. Can you think of another way to use magnets around the house? Can you invent a magnet game? Talk over some ideas with your family and try out some games, if you can.

Collect any magnets you have at home and compare the strength of each. What items are attracted to the magnets? Can you attract more than one item to the magnet? Compare two magnets and what is attracted to them. Are there any differences? Why do you think? Make a drawing and label the system you used to test the magnet strength.

Social Studies, A Rare Find:

Fourth graders know geography is the study of location, places, culture and how they interact. These elements interact so beautifully in the story of Washington State's most ancient skeletal remains. Location: North America, United States, once the tribal land of the Umatilla and Colville. Place: the banks of the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington. Culture: sacred burial practice, scientific investigation, federal law. Fourth graders will be fascinated with the Kennewick Man. The story has everything: a skeleton found on a riverbank, controversy as science clashes with spiritual practice, a look at a life 9,000 years ago. We will read what our textbook has to offer. I'll do my best to keep students informed with recent updates. There are several interesting video clips on Youtube taken from documentaries, but again, updates are needed and students need prompting to see multiple perspectives. I like these articles from the Burke Museum and npr. I LOVE fourth grade social studies!

<https://www.burkemuseum.org/news/ancient-one-kennewick-man>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2016/05/05/476631934/a-long-complicated-battle-over-9-000-year-old-bones-is-finally-over>

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, 11-25: noon dismissal

No Drop off or pick up needed this week.

11-26 and 11-27: No School. Happy Thanksgiving

**Fine people,
I count you and your children among my blessings. I am so thankful for our Guadalupe community. Thank you for sending your children to OLG and allowing me to teach them. Happy Thanksgiving. We are blessed, indeed.**