

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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StoryPath, Northwest Coast People

Last week fourth graders brainstormed qualities and skills needed in a strong leader. We took our list of traits and scanned the character descriptions we created last month for our StoryPath Northwest Coast unit. We identified three likely candidates for chief, discussed our options and voted. Logan's character Gobie is now our chief. He is a 79 year-old shaman who loves to help people. In his free time he goes to the forest to look for healing plants. He knows about herbs and how to use them. He's been a shaman for a long time, longer than anyone else in our village.

Our StoryPath unit has setting and characters. Next week plot events will happen that require fourth graders to think, feel and respond. Our leader will need to act thoughtfully, keeping the community's best interests at heart. Fourth graders are fully engaged and ready to learn.

Reading:

This week fourth graders begin a Reader's Workshop Unit focusing on books set in Asia. Reader's Workshop is an approach to reading based on incorporating student selection in the reading process. A variety of books are offered with a range of reading levels. Students participate in whole class lessons via video or zoom that model skills and concepts using a picture book. Next, students read their chosen text and practice the skill independently. Later, students use zoom breakout rooms to reflect with others who are reading the same book. They will learn new vocabulary, summarize, analyze setting and character, infer and identify theme while providing details from the text to support their thinking. Students read independently, in a pair or with a small group. Each group will create weekly goals for reading. Some students might need to devote their 20 minutes of at home reading towards their Reader's Workshop book. Some groups will finish their books before others and may read more than one book.

I will coordinate my read aloud with our Reader's Workshop topic. Goodbye, Vietnam by Gloria Whelan examines the struggle a group of people must endure to escape political and economic oppression. We will discuss deep topics that inform our understanding of civics, economics and culture. Read alouds are meant to engage fourth graders with text they might not choose to read on their own. They also model fluency. I invite students to listen three times a week as they have snack. Read alouds are mandatory. By the end of next week your child should be able to respond to the question, "What's happening in Goodbye Vietnam?"

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, 1-14-2021, 9:00 AM:

Family Group Zoom, MLK Day led by our 8th grade family group leaders. This is done in family group zooms. Find your fourth grader's family group link in the document below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DWUvs-C7PUdFlnK-a2NOMiB3FRlJsrCdHCEn5_7iIE/edit?usp=sharing

Thursday, 1-14-2021, 9:00 AM: All School Mass led by the 8th grade. Fourth graders will attend this mass in our own classroom zoom. All are welcome to attend virtually and can watch at

<https://www.olgseattle.org/livestreaming-at-olg>

Sunday, 1-31-2021: Open House, Catholic Schools Week. More information to come!

Auction Ahead!

Thank you to all who are working on our OLG Auction! Stephanie Huske and Rachelle Snyder are busy organizing our fourth grade contribution, Date Night! This includes 2 tickets to Hamilton at the Paramount when they come to Seattle in May, and a gift certificate for dinner before. Wow! I might give you all a virtual elbow to knock you down and be the winning bidder myself. Fourth graders and I will learn an adjusted Hamilton tune to encourage our bidders. Have your child practice independently... we will also be learning it together in zoom. <https://youtu.be/onf7SR1IM9g> Have a listen... it will make you smile.