

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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Math, Real World Problems

Last week fourth graders continued to practice long division with an emphasis on estimating quotients to check for accuracy. This week fourth graders use all their computation skills to solve real world problems. I coach students to ask these questions: "What do we know? What is the question? Will a bar model be helpful? What kind of problem can we make to figure this out?"

We use the Bar Model method to help students visualize the process. If you are unfamiliar with Bar Modeling you might want to watch a few of my videos this week! No time? Here's a video I found on the web that beautifully illustrates how Bar Models help visualize information. It's worth a watch.

<https://youtu.be/PEAoJUYELtk>

Science:

Fourth graders continue our study of energy as we explore movement, sound, light and heat. Last week we focused on the question, "What do we observe that provides evidence that energy is present?" *Energy is evident whenever there is motion, electric current, sound, light or heat. Energy is transferred from place to place.* Our focus in the weeks ahead is kinetic energy and potential energy. We ask, "How does the starting position affect the speed of a ball rolling down a ramp?" We will learn *kinetic energy is energy of motion and potential energy is energy that depends on certain conditions such as place on a ramp or size of object. For identical objects at rest, objects in higher position have more potential energy than objects at lower positions. Objects in motion have energy. The faster an object is moving, the more kinetic energy it has.* Next we ask, "What happens when objects collide?" *When objects collide, energy can transfer between objects, thereby changing their motion.*

When we went remote last spring I gave a lot of thought to teaching science. I affirmed the value of hands on experience and coaching students to wonder, explore, question, discuss and conclude. This means I work hard to get supplies to students and lead them in action, discussion and thinking. Experience informs paper and pencil assignments and google assessments. Our most recent pick up (Friday, 1-15-2021) includes a ramp, meter tape and two metal balls. As I write this I'm not 100% sure how it will play out... I have just enough equipment for students but none left for me! No worries, I have faith we will figure things out.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, 1-18-2021: No School in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King

Friday, 1-22-2021: Half Day

Sunday, 1-31-2021: Open House

Monday, 2-1 to Friday, 2-5: Catholic Schools Week. More information to come!

Wednesday 2-10 and Thursday, 2-11: Winter Conferences, No School

Friday, 2-12: No School, Winter Break

Monday, 2-15: No School, President's Day

Auction Ahead!

Thank you to all who are working on our OLG Auction!

Week of February 22: Items up for bid!

Saturday, March 6, 6 PM: VIP pre event Zoom. We'll have fun!

Register here today: <https://guadalupe-school.ejoinme.org/register>

More info on the auction: <https://www.guadalupe-school.org/fundraising/auction/>