

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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Lewis and Clark, Corps of Discovery, Sacajawea

Fourth grade study of Washington State History includes a focus on exploration, Lewis and Clark and the fur trade. My read aloud book is Sacajawea by Joseph Bruchac. Each chapter alternates in voice from William Clark to Sacajawea. In reading class last week each fourth grader had their own informational text about the Corps of Discovery. Students documented their active reading strategies: making connections, asking questions, finding the very important parts, new learning and shocking bits. Being aware of our thinking helps us remember and understand what we read. We continue to work in our textbook, practicing another reading strategy to help us understand, SQR3. Again, reading with a question in mind helps us remember and understand. This week we will watch several videos that focus on the journey of Lewis and Clark. My favorite is "The Spirit of Sacajawea" by Naka Productions. Was she Hidatsa or Shoshone? How long did she live? Where is she buried? "The Spirit of Sacajawea" examines these questions through the eyes of her ancestors. The majority of the interviews are with Native American people from across the United States. We learn about what she meant to their culture, how her tribes lived 200 years ago and how they've survived one challenge after another, from smallpox to relocation to the destruction of native lands and sacred sites. Multiple voices, many ways to learn.

Math:

Fourth graders are working diligently to fully understand fractions in a deeper level. This week finish review of third grade material and spend more time on expressing fractions in their simplest form. This concept is important in the immediate future as the Math in Focus assessments will show all multiple choice responses in simplest form. I've seen students successfully complete multi step problems only to get stuck when their answer is 75/100s. We must help them see $\frac{3}{4}$ s as a choice.

We move forward to the fourth grade textbook, Chapter 6, Fractions and Mixed Numbers. In this chapter, your child will learn about computing with fractions and mixed numbers. Some of the skills include adding and subtracting fractions, converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions, finding a fraction of a set and solving real-world problems.

Finding the fraction of a set or a number is a useful skill with many applications in everyday life. Look out for opportunities to help your child practice this skill. While traveling by bus or car, tell your child that the distance between two points, say your home and school, is 4 kilometers. Ask your child to calculate the distance between the school and another place, say the library, which is half-way between school and home. $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$ kilometers. I appreciate all the fraction support at home.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, 3-1: Drop off, Pick up for at home learners

Tuesday, 3-9: End of Trimester 2

Friday, 3-12: No School, Teacher In-Service

Thursday, 3-18: School Mass, sponsored by 4th grade. More information to come!

Friday, 4-2: noon dismissal, Good Friday

Spring Break from April 5 – April 9

Monday, April 12: Back to school

Auction Now!

This week: Items continue to be 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/>

Scholastic Book Club Orders!

Thank you to Alexandra Thompson for organizing book purchases.

Order books online by next Monday, March 8. Use classroom code H8V76.

<https://clubs.scholastic.com/home>