

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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Reading, Esperanza Rising

I am excited as fourth graders begin reading Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan. The setting is the 1930s depression era, Mexico and California. The main character, Esperanza, has lived a privileged life on El Rancho de las Rosas near Aguascalientes, Mexico. Her father is killed by bandits. To stay together, Esperanza and her mother are forced to flee to the United States. They escape with their former hired hands, live in a migrant camp near Bakersfield, California, and work in the packing sheds as different crops are harvested. This novel, first published in 2000, is based on the author's maternal grandmother's own story. It has won many awards and speaks to differences in society, starting over, accepting change and growing up. Our classroom reading choices are done with intention. Engaging stories, interesting topics, relevant to our curriculum, accessible, diverse voices... all factors to consider when choosing a book.

Writing:

Aaron Rodgers, The Learning Tree, Minecraft, Reading, My Dog, Battlefront II, Honolulu, Football, Off-Road Remote-Control Cars, The Warriors Series, St. Louis, Our Cabin, My Family, Basketball, Computers, Horses... Each fourth grader identified their "Expert Topic". We've spent weeks brainstorming and organizing ideas, writing main idea and detailed paragraphs, constructing introductions that draw the reader in (leads) and tell what the essay is about (focus statements). Last week we wrote conclusions and catchy titles.

This week fourth graders finish typing their Expert Topic Essays. Students are experimenting with the voice typing feature in google documents. Most are finding it easier to just type! I'll work with each fourth grader to check punctuation, spelling and format. Our final step will be to "publish" our work, just as we did our personal narratives last trimester.

Our next writing unit is persuasive writing. Get ready for clear opinions with evidence to support thinking.

Science:

This week we explore light waves. From FOSS Home/School Connection... *The Sun seems to move across the sky because Earth is turning on its axis. You can use a mirror to observe the movement. Here's how. Find a window where light from the Sun shines in. Position a mirror to reflect sunlight onto a wall. Tape a piece of paper there. Mark the center of the reflection of the Sun. Wait 10 minutes and mark the center of the reflection again. Did the reflection move? Why?*

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, 3-17: St. Patrick's Day Free Dress in Green Day

Thursday, 3-18: School Mass, sponsored by 4th grade. Families welcome, no sign up needed. There is room for distancing.

Thursday, 3-25: Free Dress in Club or Sport Team Gear

Friday, 3-26: Family Group in Zoom, 9AM

Friday, 4-2: noon dismissal, Good Friday

Spring Break from April 5 – April 9

Monday, April 12: Back to school

Battle of the Books!

We have our class team! Thank you Lena, Nicole, Susie and Kristian for representing our class in Battle of the Books! Look to Mrs. Sommerville's webpage for more information:

<https://www.guadalupe-school.org/classes/library-tech/what-is-the-battle-of-the-books/2021-battle-of-the-books-family-letter/>

Message from the bidder!

I received a wonderful email from the high bidder of our auction date night. (I didn't tell him about the competition!)

We were the successful winner of the Fourth Grade Hamilton Date Night auction item and want you and your class to know that we L♥VED -- L♥VED -- L♥VED the video you all created! There were a lot of great singers♪ in the video. We especially enjoyed the students who acted out their words whether by wearing an outfit (the KING👑) or using hand gestures for CRYING😭 and EATING🍩. Seriously, ALL of the students (and of course their teacher) were GREAT! 😊

We were very impressed by the whole production. 💯👍🎥