

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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206.935.0651 X110, or cwilson@guadalupe-school.org

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Math and Money

A truck driver named Lou taught me how to count back change when I started my first job. I was 15 years old, working behind the till at a diner in my hometown. Back in the day registers didn't tell you how much change to give. I was a mess. Every day for three weeks Lou refused to accept my pile of change and made me count back correctly. "Start with what I owe you, count the change up to the next dollar, from there count dollars to what I gave you." I smile when I think of this. Who helped you understand money?

Somewhere along our journey we learned that twenty-four dollars is written as \$24.00. We now take for granted that one dollar and thirty-five cents is written as \$1.35. This system (money expressed as decimals) must be overtly taught. I could use your help. Give your fourth grader receipts. Let them look at price tags and break open their meaning. Fourth grade work with decimals is limited to tenths and hundredths, perfect time to learn the value of a dollar... and a dime, and a cent!

Check out fourth grade math standards at

<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/4/NF/> Scroll to the bottom for standards 4.NF.C.5, 6 and 7.

Reading:

Now and always, I am aware of the need for diverse voices. It's not just what we read but who does the telling as well. I acted on that responsibility last year and researched several novels to add to the list available for fourth grade study. I was excited to purchase a class set of Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz and made room for breaking it open with fourth graders.

I rarely shy away from hard topics. In the course of day-to-day discussions students typically share the richness and pains of all life. We discuss birth, death, prejudice, racism, classism, sexism, discrimination, worker rights, poverty, fairness, compassion... you get the idea. When strong topics come up in class, I usually listen, listen and listen some more. I then help students define terms. I model consideration for multiple perspectives. I remind students of our Catholic call for gospel values. Finally, I encourage fourth graders to go home and talk about how their family responds to whatever issue we are exploring in class.

This week fourth graders finish reading Esperanza Rising. I invite families to discuss your experiences and perspectives in response to our classroom reading. Worker rights, boycott, immigration, deportation, racism, prejudice, strike, language discrimination... all topics that impact the characters and plot of Esperanza Rising. Topics our fourth graders are ready to explore. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dates to Remember:

Monday, May 10: MAP testing, Math

Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 PM: Parent Org Meeting via zoom

Wednesday, May 12: Research due for Oral Presentation

Thursday, May 13: Spirit Day, Students dress as teachers, teachers dress as students day!

Monday, May 17: MAP testing, Reading

Thursday, May 20: All School Mass, 4th attends via livestream and zoom., MAP testing, Language

Thursday, May 27: Field Day

Monday, May 31: Memorial Day, No School

Wednesday, June 2: Light of Leadership Mass, All School Mass, 4th attends via livestream and zoom.

Friday, June 11: Last day of school, more information to come!

Helpful links:

Updated Link, Google slides for Oral Presentation:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTI3MjM2NzksODk0/a/MzI4ODg0MDMsMDMs/details>

Oral Presentation Project, Folder in Digital Form

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MTI3MjM2NzksODk0/a/MzExODc4ODg1Nzky/details>

Video to explain presentation

<https://youtu.be/BK-f45ORiuQ>