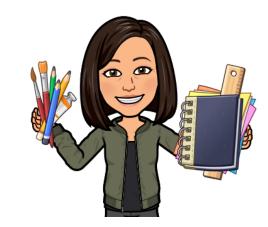
# CLASSROOM UPDATES



November 27-December 8, 2023

# **LITERACY**

# Nonfiction Unit of Study

We will begin our nonfiction unit with mini-lessons from Notice & Note Nonfiction. During these mini-lessons, students will learn the 3 Big Questions we ask as readers of nonfiction – What surprised me? What did the author think I already knew? What challenged, changed, or confirmed what I knew? Students will then learn about the nonfiction signposts that help us think about the 3 Big Questions with specificity. Authors of nonfiction intentionally contrast or contradict what we know or observe to make us wonder. They intentionally use extreme or absolute language, numbers and statistics, and quotes from experts to expand our knowledge on a topic or challenge what we might know. They intentionally use technical or academic language to help fill in word gaps and expand our vocabulary as readers. It is our job as readers of nonfiction to pay attention for, and think about, these signposts in our reading so we can get the most out of the nonfiction experience.

We will be starting our December book clubs this week. Students have selected one of the following books to read with a small group of classmates- <a href="Framed">Framed</a>, <a href="Masterminds">Masterminds</a>, <a href="The Ambrose">The Ambrose</a> <a href="Deception">Deception</a>, <a href="Storm Runners">Storm Runners</a>, <a href="The Explorer">The Explorer</a>, and <a href="Capture the Flag</a>. All books share a common theme of survival and/or adventure. As a group, students will create a reading schedule for their book. Book clubs will meet weekly on Wednesdays, December 6, December 13, and December 20, to discuss the scheduled reading for that week.

# Writer's Workshop: Writing Fiction

We will begin our fiction unit this week. In this unit, students will explore features of good fiction writing including developing interesting plots, using transitional words, and creating endings

that leave the reader satisfied. We will also be working on conventions such as punctuating dialogue, maintaining a consistent verb tense, and using either first- OR third- person point of view.

## MATH IN FOCUS with MRS. McLOONE

#### Unit 4: Decimals

In this short unit, students will learn about place value to the thousandths, compare and order decimals, round decimals to the nearest hundredth, and rewrite fractions as decimals. There will be a test next week on either Monday, December 4 or Tuesday, December 5. Mrs. McLoone will reach out with more information.

# **BIG IDEAS MATH with MRS. CIONI**

# Unit 5: Rates and Ratios

This month, students will be learning all about ratios, rates, and unit rates. Students will learn to use tables to compare ratios and how to find a percent as a rate per 100. They will solve problems involving finding the whole given a part and the percent, and use ratio reasoning to convert measurement units. There is a test tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 20.

#### **HISTORY**

Chapter 11: To Declare Independence or Not (Loyalists v. Patriots)

In this chapter we will be discussing the arguments for and against colonial independence from Great Britain. Students will choose a side and try to convince others to join them as a Loyalist or a Patriot.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

- ✓ November 28 Math Club 12:40–1:10 PM
- December 5 Math Contest #1 for Individuals 12:40-1:10 PM
- ✓ December 6 MAP Testing (Reading) 1:15–3:00 PM
- ✓ December 7 Math Contest #1 for Teams 12:40–1:10 PM
- December 8 Candor Health Drug Education Program @ 1:30 PM
- December 13 MAP Testing (Math) 1:15–3:00 PM
- ✓ December 14 "FROZEN Jr." Informational Parent Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- December 18 Happy Birthday, Georgiy!
- ✓ December 18 Happy ½ Birthday, Arya!
- December 18 Hour of Code! in LMC
- ✓ December 19 Math Club 12:40-1:10 PM
- ✓ December 19 Reading Buddies "Gift of Nothing" Project due; details coming soon
- ✓ December 20 Reading Buddies with Mrs. Litberg's class
- ✓ December 21 Happy 1/2 Birthday, Suhani!

- ✓ December 22 Last day of classes in 2023
- ✓ December 25-January 8 No School: Winter Vacation
- ✓ December 25 Happy Birthday, Livie!
- ✓ January 6 Happy ½ Birthday, Isaac!
- ✓ January 8 No School: Institute
- ✓ January 9 Classes resume

If at any time you or your child have any questions regarding this information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mrs. Cioni

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