

February 7, 2020

February 2020 Newsletter

2020 AND THE SECOND HALF OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already past the halfway point of the school year! We have been hard at work since returning from our long winter break. Students have been preparing for their upcoming parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday, February 12th, by compiling work in their portfolios, which they will share with you. This is why you may not have seen much work coming home recently.

Remember to sign up for a conference time on the 12th, if you haven't already. A link to your teacher's SignUp Genius page was sent out in on the recent Friday Flashes from Mrs Heath. Please contact your teacher if you need the link resent or with any questions regarding the conference. This round of conferences will be a little different—you will meet with the teacher for 15 minutes and then your child will show you what they have been studying recently, by presenting a portfolio of their work. You may take home all work in the portfolios that night.

We welcome Cadet Teacher Mollie Higney to our team! Mollie is a senior at Legacy High School and a former Mountain View bighorn herself! Mollie is working in Mrs. Treese's classroom four afternoons per week during the second semester.

This newsletter will be published monthly, posted to our fourth grade web page no later than the first Friday of each month. We ask that you take a few minutes to read over each newsletter for information regarding curriculum, events, and other important news. Newsletters for prior months will be kept up on the web site all year long.

ACADEMICS

In **literacy** this month we are studying stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures. Students will compare and contrast themes and the point of view from which the story is told; and describe in depth characters, settings, and events, drawing on specific details. They will also draw upon evidence from literary texts to support analysis and reflection, when writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. We will look at firsthand (primary) and secondhand (secondary) accounts. By the end of February, students will start to conduct their research projects. They will gather information from print and digital sources, take notes, and categorize information in order to write an informative or explanatory essay that will convey ideas and information clearly.

Students have recently begun unit 5 in **math**, which focuses on adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers, measuring angles, and reviewing line symmetry and symmetric shapes. We will likely take the test in early March.

Our current unit in **science** is "organisms and ecosystems." Students will learn about the interaction and interdependence between and among living and non-living components of ecosystems, including similarities and differences between living things. Students will identify a system, be able to draw and understand how energy moves through food chains and webs, and learn what characteristics are used to classify organisms.

We just completed a unit on Spanish and American explorers in **social studies**. Students examined events through the lens of cause and effect relationships in this unit. Our next unit is on trappers, traders, and miners, and will examine the economic factors which led people to settle in Colorado.

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REMINDERS

Remember that we have a Lost and Found area outside of the gym if any items have gone missing. Expensive or breakable items, like eyeglasses, are kept in the office.

Please consult Mountain View's web site (mountain.adams12.org) for important dates and information. You can reach the fourth grade page or individual teachers' pages from there, too.

PTO information can be accessed from the above web site, as well. Just go to the "Family Resources" tab, then to "Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)." Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30, and free child care is provided.

Please refer to the Everyday Math Family Letter for each unit—either on paper or on our web site—for more details about each unit.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 2/10 - Wednesday 2/12 - Library Book Fair

Wednesday 2/12 - Parent - Teacher Conferences
From 10 A.M. - 8 P.M. **No school for students that day.**

Thursday 2/13 - Teacher Duty Day - **no school for students**

Friday 2/14 - Teacher In-Service Day - **no school for students**

Monday 2/17 - President's Day - **no school for students**

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

We continue to teach 15 minutes of social emotional learning each day, building on what we started last year. This time may involve class meetings, sharing, celebrating birthdays, and teaching lessons about feelings and behavior. The overall idea is to help build a classroom community where students value and support each other and learn to manage their feelings and frustrations appropriately. We will also be using the Second Step curriculum this year, which includes an anti-bullying component.

We have used the "Mountain View Way," all year, which asks students to be safe, be kind, do their job, and show initiative. Students can earn individual rewards (ROCK coupons) for this. Classes can earn rewards (mountains) from staff members other than their classroom teacher for demonstrating the above behaviors. Classrooms then redeem their mountains for different rewards (extra recess, wear PJs to school, guest reader, lunch with the principal, etc.) throughout the year.

We will use Love and Logic principles in the classroom, too. This program strives to make students responsible for their behaviors and to have them problem solve when they do something that disrupts the learning environment or creates a problem for another.

FINAL THOUGHTS

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow." - Anthony J. D'Angelo

Thanks very much for reading!

