4th Grade January 2015 News

Math
In math we will be continuing our exploration of fractions and will build upon our understanding of fraction equivalence and the relationship between the numerator and denominator. This month we will focus on adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators. We will also be working on adding and subtracting mixed numbers and converting mixed numbers into improper fractions and vice versa. Once the children master adding and subtracting fractions we will move onto multiplication and the relationship between fractions and decimals. If you want to help your child at home the following websites have great tutorials and games: www.khanacademy.org, www.franklinboe.org, www.education.com, www.math-play.com

Social Studies
We are beginning our unit of the Colonial and Revolutionary War period in New York State. This is a very exciting unit with many facets. During January we will focus on the Dutch colony of New Netherlands and what life was like in its main village of New Amsterdam and how it became a major place of trade and commerce under its governor Peter Stuyvesant. We will then move on to British New York and the formation of the 13 colonies.

Reading
After culminating our unit on Becoming Researchers, we are going to being exploring legends and folktales as we delve into the connection between culture and nature. We will be reading many new and exciting genres as we interpret details on how characters respond and react to their environment. We will continue to build upon reading skills such as main idea, supporting details, cause and effect, making predictions, drawing conclusions, inferring and vocabulary.

Writing
In writing we will be focusing on composing a narrative legend that reflects the qualities of the genre including elements of culture, strong characters, and resolution of a problem that challenges ways of life, using real or imagined experiences or events from history. Students will learn how to develop a theme and text structure to create an engaging legend. They will also share their legends as people did in the day when legends were popular, creating the mood and spirit of performance.

Science
ZAP! We will be beginning our unit on Magnetism and Electricity. In this unit we will be comparing how electrical and magnetic properties are affected by different materials. We will investigate how a magnetic field is produced and explore the interaction of electricity and magnetism. We will learn about circuitry and the differences in series versus parallel circuit.