

# This Week in Fourth Grade

December 5-16, 2016

Mrs. Pahl & Ms. Eberhardt's  
Class

## Reading Workshop

We completed the final bend of our nonfiction unit by comparing and contrasting information we researched about two extreme weather/natural disaster events. For example, some students noted the similarities and differences between the causes of tornadoes and hurricanes.

Then, we took a look at author's craft. We studied the techniques authors use to accomplish a goal. For example, an author might quote an expert in order to persuade a reader to think a certain way.

As a final project, we will use the Thinglink app to create infographics and teach one another what we learned.

Our next unit will focus on historical fiction.

## Science

By Tehilla Saidian and Lauren Siong Sin

For the past few weeks in science, we studied owl pellets. We used the bones we found in the pellets to make diagrams of what the owls were eating. We glued the bones from the pellets together on a piece of paper with a picture of a skeleton. We had to figure out what the owl ate. Some people thought it was gross because the pellet had been in an owl's mouth!

We made a book using Book Creator on our iPads. The book is about the owl pellets. We included pictures of us taking apart the pellet. We took pictures of the skeleton.

This was hard work, but we did it! It was a lot of fun!

## Writing Workshop

We finished publishing our personal essays. We worked hard to develop thesis statements and support our statements with examples and details. In fourth grade, students are expected to substantiate all their ideas with evidence (from a text, video, etc). When speaking with your child, get him/her in the habit of explaining *why* he/she thinks a certain way. For example, if your child says dissecting owl pellets was fun, ask him/her to tell you *what* about it was fun.

For our next piece, we will work on writing persuasive essays.

## Social Studies

We wrapped up our study of the Iroquois. Next week, we will compare and contrast the way the Algonquian and Iroquois lived.

Our next unit will focus on European explorers.

## Math

We started our next math unit, fractions. This week, we reviewed vocabulary terms, such as numerator and denominator. We spoke about ways to make equivalent fractions. Some strategies we discussed were:

- making models
- using number lines
- multiplying
- dividing

We reviewed past concepts, such as factors and greatest common factor, to help us with this work.

Looking ahead, we will focus on adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. Students will need to use the least common multiple to do this, so your child should continue reviewing his/her math facts.

In addition, we will use the greatest common factor to simplify fractions; this is another good concept to review.

## Contact Information

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