

This Week in Fourth Grade

September 19-30, 2016

Mrs. Pahl & Ms. Eberhardt's Class

Reading Workshop

Our first unit of Reading Workshop focuses on developing ideas about characters. As readers, we must pay attention to a character's words, thoughts and actions. These often help us identify a character's traits. Sometimes, people can confuse a trait with a feeling. Ask your child to tell you the difference!

Last week, we focused on what a character's actions can tell us about him/her. We looked for patterns in a character's behavior and noticed times when the character's actions broke the pattern (and he/she acted in an unexpected way). We pushed ourselves to think, "Why is this character suddenly acting differently? Who, or what, is causing the change?"

We also discussed that all characters want, or desire, something. Often, an obstacle will stand in the character's path. How the character reacts to the obstacle tells us a lot about him/her.

When your child is reading at home, encourage him/her to think about the characters in his/her book!

Writing Workshop

We are continuing to work on our realistic fiction stories. This week, we created story arcs to help us plan the flow of our stories. We learned that all stories have a problem that intensifies, so be sure to look for this when you read our work!

We began drafting scenes for our stories. We made sure to include the following elements in each scene:

- Characters
- Setting
- Sequence of events
- Dialogue
- Internal thinking

Science

We are continuing our study of botany. We talked about the different ways seeds disperse. For example, some seeds are dispersed by wind while others are transported by animals.

Math

We wrapped up chapter 1 with our chapter 1 test. If you have not already done so, please review it with your child, sign it and return it to us.

Chapter 2 will focus on factors, multiples and estimation. This is a great time for your child to review his/her basic multiplication facts. Be on the lookout for our multiplication fact log; this will require your child to review his/her facts for 10 minutes each night. You can use flashcards, go on IXL, or use any method that works for your family!

Social Studies

We are continuing to study the geography of New York. Students were given geographical terms to research. Some terms were mountain, plain, river and bay. We then visited the *I Love New York* website and found real examples of these landforms and bodies of water in New York. We are now working with Ms. Boylan to create fact cards that include the term, definition, image and New York related fact.

Contact Information

cpahl@greatneck.k12.ny.us

keberhardt@greatneck.k2.ny.us

Characters Have...	
Feelings	Traits
Feelings describe how a character feels at a certain time.	Traits describe a character's personality.
Ask: How does the character feel right now?	Ask: How does the character usually behave?
Examples: scared upset happy surprised jealous nervous sad afraid	Examples: kind bossy selfish determined shy mean brave confident

Remember to visit our class webpage.

You find the link on the E.M. Baker website.

↑
See what we're talking about in class!