



Fourth Grade Newsletter
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

*Mr. Ledyard, Ms. Cole, Mr. Gold, Ms. Jensen, Ms. Buscher, Ms. Hunter, Ms. Quirin Pavetto,
Ms. Yedwab, Ms. Spence, Ms. Young*

General News

Please mark your calendars:

*On November 20 at 6:00, the fourth grade will hold its ELA Content Night. Please plan to attend this evening to learn more about how we teach Reading and Writing at Janney. We will be discussing students' upcoming nonfiction research projects and how you can support them.

*On November 21, students will participate in a field trip to Mount Vernon,. We will send permission slips home on Wednesday. We are seeking a few chaperones for this field trip. Please let your homeroom teacher know if you would like to volunteer.

Reading

Our Character Study Unit is drawing to close as students begin to apply all of the strategies they have learned in order to identify the themes (life lessons) of the books they are reading. Some steps in this process are: tracking one character closely, noticing how the character changes over the course of the story, identifying the life lesson the character learns that prompts that change, identifying a theme topic that can be traced through the whole story, and then building upon that to identify a universal theme that could apply to anyone. Some examples of themes are:

Growing up sometimes means having to let go
Express your feelings
Friends can help you through the toughest times
Believe in yourself
Don't give up

This is challenging work, and we will practice this skill at other times over the course of the year. That said, your children have made significant progress. Please support them by discussing the themes of movies and books you have read at home.

Math

This week in math, students are continuing their work with comparison word problems. Students are solving both *multiplicative* and *additive* comparison word problems. We are encouraging students to use a bar model and equation to help them represent and solve the problem. Later in the week, we will move on to number patterns. Students will be able to generate & solve number patterns with 2-step rules. Lastly, we will end the week with functions.

Writing

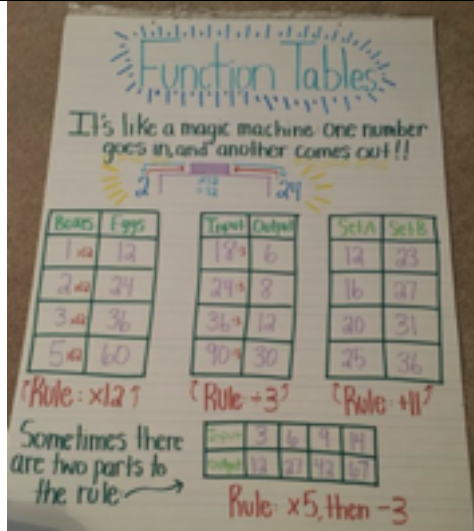
We will begin our personal essay unit by immersing ourselves in how essayists structure and develop strong personal essays.

Separately, we'll start assigning the home journal for homework this week. As a reminder, the home journal is a space for students to write about whatever they'd like for homework. We are encouraging students to try different genres and ideas in this space. Although we assign the home journal writing once a week, students are encouraged to write in it more, if they like. The day



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that they choose to write is flexible.

Please remember to have your children practice keyboarding at home. Typing Agent is a great resource.

Science

Welcome to 4th Grade Science! I am looking forward to meeting the 4th-grade scientists this week. This first week we will be getting to know the lab that the students will be working in (Lower level lab for 3-side and 5th-grade lab for 2-side), learning about what we will be studying this year, and starting to think about and apply the Habits of Mind that scientists use. Make sure to bookmark the science web page, as that will be where you will go every week to find out what is going on in science class. The web address is:

<https://janney4science.weebly.com/>

Upcoming Dates

- November 11: NO SCHOOL (Veterans Day)
- November 19: Report cards go home
- November 20: ELA Content Night (6pm-7pm)
- November 21: Mt. Vernon Field Trip
- November 27-29: NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Break)