

Ms. Speno's & Mrs. Forbes'

December Newsletter

Language Arts- In Reader's Workshop, we have been working on exploring and analyzing how characters have changed over time. Our students have been doing a great job with this reading objective and have been displaying their understanding through discussions in their book clubs. Prior to beginning this unit, discussion was a fundamental skill that we worked on and developed in order to have meaningful conversations. We are encouraging the use of the reader's notebook as a tool to support their comprehension and their synthesis of character development. To support your child's reading at home you can encourage them to read from their book baggies and to use their reader's notebook as a comprehension tool to record and develop their thinking. Additionally in ELA, we have started our new Social Studies infused writing project. In order to create this expository writing piece, students have begun reading and learning about life in early New York using the text, Life in New Amsterdam.

Math – We have officially completed Module 3 and are moving ahead to Module 5! This module focuses on fractions and builds on students' third grade work with this mathematical concept. In this unit we will explore fraction equivalence and will extend this understanding as we explore mixed numbers. With this foundational understanding, the module then leads to the comparison of fractions and mixed numbers using a variety of strategies and mathematical models. We are proud to say that our students have greatly improved with their automaticity with multiplication facts. As we move forward to our next module, it is imperative for them to continue practicing their facts as this will be used to find the least common multiple, common denominators, and creating improper fractions.

Content – We have started our fifth Science unit, which addresses the Earth. So far, in this unit students learned about the weather and the water cycle. To supplement our provided curriculum, our scientists also completed a "Water Cycle Observation" in class. Ask your scientist about this engaging activity! Additionally in Social Studies, we have continued to learn about Explorers. Through these learning activities, students learned about the Spice Trade, Peter Stuyvesant and about life while living on a boat.

Announcements

- We had a lockdown drill on December 3rd. We remind our students that it is important to know the procedures in place in the event of an emergency.
- On December 6th, we attended our third ELA/Library session with Ms. Nedwick. So far, students have learned all about Digital Citizenship and how to appropriately comment on peers' responses after reading a text. We will continue to apply these skills in our classroom.
- On December 11th, technology specialist, Amber Klebanoff came to our classroom. She guided us with Google Slides, which is a forum that our students have become very familiar with this year. We look forward to our additional learning sessions with her!
- For this month's Social/Emotional Learning assembly, students wore blue to celebrate mindfulness.
- On December 17th, Claudia Heitler visited our class for her monthly Current Events presentation.
- We enjoyed having many of you visit our classroom for our Winter Writing Celebration on December 19th. The children were so proud to share their published work!

Upcoming Events

- January 2 – School Reopens
- January 2 – Collaborative Library/ELA Session
- January 11 – Late Start for Students
- January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
- January 31 – Wear GREEN to celebrate Perseverance – S.E.L Assembly

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact us by sending in a note or emailing us at spenoa@hohschools.org and forbesk@hohschools.org.



Warmest regards,
Alexis Speno and Katrina Forbes