

Ms. Speno's & Mrs. Forbes'

September Newsletter

ELA- In ELA our students have enjoyed our “eyes on text” time. Together we have discussed choosing what we *can* and *want* to read. We also have been generating conversations about our genre interests and have been sharing various strategies that good readers use. Examples of these strategies include, envisioning, forming opinions about characters and generating predictions as they read. Additionally we have discussed book “commitment” and the importance of sticking with a book both in school and at home. In writer’s workshop, our students enjoyed decorating their notebooks. From their collected pictures, the children have been able to brainstorm and “plant seeds” of memories that they will write about in the weeks to come.

Math – Our mathematicians have completed the first half of module one. This module focuses on the skills of place value, rounding, and algorithms for addition and subtraction. To support students’ understanding we have been utilizing our place value charts during our classroom instruction. This is a great visual tool to support our students’ conceptual understanding of this mathematic concept. For additional insight to what we are studying in math, please review your child’s completed classwork (“Problem Set”), their homework as well as their graded “Exit Tickets.”

Content– This month our fourth graders have enjoyed working as scientists. In our first unit we reviewed fundamental science concepts related to scientific inquiry and later have been introduced to the concept of living things. To supplement our provided curriculum our students have also participated in additional hands on activities and labs. Examples of this include a “Mystery Bag” activity, a “Massive Rocks” lab and an “Observation Lab”. Additionally in Social Studies we have started our first unit which addresses the land of New York. To supplement our grade level textbook, students have been enhancing their knowledge of geography vocabulary through our school’s library database, “Info. Bits.” As our historians build their background knowledge pertaining to geography, they have also began to collaborate as they create a map of New York State. Stay tuned for more information about this art infused history project.

“Just like flowers on a hillside, we are here to learn, grow and flourish!”



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Announcements

- It was wonderful having the opportunity to meet many of you at “Back to School Night!” Thank you for your continual support in your child’s learning. We know together with our partnership we will have a wonderful year together!
- On September 14th, Hillside hosted our annual “Pedestrian Safety Assembly.” Thank you to local Officer Brecker who educated us about how to stay safe.
- We have begun our “Current Events” sessions with Claudia Heitler. The students enjoyed our first session on Tuesday, September 25th. Similar to third grade, Claudia will visit our classroom once a month. Ask your child about what they have learned from their sessions together!
- On Thursday, September 25th, Donnie Walters also came to visit our classroom. Donnie’s six lessons with us will align with our Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum, “Second Steps.”
- Thank you to our school counselor, Ms. Snyder who visited our classroom on Friday September 28th. We look forward to our monthly lessons with her.
- As a reminder, our class’ webpage contains various educational websites. Please feel free to use these valuable resources when at home with your child.
- As a reminder, Hillside has changed their birthday celebration policy. For students’ birthdays we will be celebrating by reading a book of choice. Please email us at least a week in advance to plan a good date/time for your child’s birthday celebration.

Upcoming Events

- October 5 & 19 – Late Start for Students
- October 8 - No School – Columbus Day
- October 11 – Senior Sewing
- October 24 – Hillside Assembly
- October 31 – Halloween Parade/ Celebration



As always please reference our class website for more information, pictures and updates on our class!

kindest regards,
Ms. Speno and Mrs. Forbes