

4th Grade News

Jan. 5-9

Happy New Year!! We are excited to be back in school. This cold weather is a downer though. We were able to get outside for awhile one day this week, so it wasn't all bad. Otherwise, we danced inside, played with a parachute, and even played some games. Anything to keep us busy and use our energy.

We had a lot to share when we came back. Everyone had a great break, and had so much fun with their families and friends. This week we are getting back into the routine of school. Getting things handed in on time, using our class time wisely, and getting time to socialize. We are working so hard that we rarely have homework at night. WooHoo!!

In English, we learned the difference between Prefixes, Suffixes, and Root Words. A prefix is added to the beginning of a root word, a suffix to the end of the root word. Each of the affixes changes the meaning of the word. Such as "happy" to "unhappy," **un** is the prefix and changes the root word **happy** to "not, or the opposite of happy." When you add a suffix to a root word such as **less** (without) + **fear**, you get the word **fearless**, which means "without fear". We are rocking these affixes and you should ask us about them!

In Math, we are trying to learn a difficult topic. We are taking it step by step so that we can fully understand it. We are learning how to solve for variables and how to check our answers to make sure it is correct. We have been using a scale to make sure things are balanced on each side of the equation. We will update next week on how we are coming along with this topic.

Do you know what a pourquoi is? We didn't either until this week in Reading. Pourquoi [poooh qwah] is a French word for "why" and is also known as an origin story. It is a fictional narrative that explains why something is the way it is, for example why a snake has no legs, or why a tiger has stripes. Many legends and folk tales are pourquoi stories. We read a story called How Night Came from the Sea. It was very fun to see how some people think it came to be.

In Science we are learning a little deeper about ecosystems and how they have to be balanced in order for the species that live there to survive. We also represented this as a scale or a seesaw. If something affected one side of the seesaw, it affected the other side as well. Right now our test is scheduled for January 22nd.

Please help us to remember that we need hats, coats, and mittens every day. It is super cold when we walk from building to building multiple times a day. If we are inside at recess because of cold, we need to wear our snow pants home. We need to stay warm so that we stay healthy and not miss any school. And if we are sick, please do not send us to school so we do not get our friends sick. That is one thing we do not like to share.

Have a great weekend and stay warm. Peace, love and warm wishes!!

-Mrs. P and the 4th Graders

Spelling

1. watermelon
2. homemade
3. understand
4. sometimes
5. shoelace
6. highway
7. upstairs
8. thunderstorm
9. shortcut
10. doorbell
11. jellyfish
12. touchdown
13. campfire
14. skateboard
15. anyway
16. fireworks
17. haircut
18. loudspeaker
19. laptop
20. flashlight
21. masterpiece
22. stomachache
23. cliffhanger
24. sweatshirt
25. afterthought

NEXT WEEK:

- Field Trip to Christ the King in Browerville. Fri. Jan. 16
- End of second quarter. Friday January 16, 2015

FUTURE:

- No School Mon. Jan. 19.
- Catholic Schools Week 26-30