

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

It was great meeting with you during parent teacher conferences. The NY State Tests are quickly approaching. The ELA test will be administered on Tuesday, April 2nd and Wednesday, April 3rd. Spring Break will be April 19th – 26th. The Math test will be administered the week we return on Wednesday, May 1st and Thursday, May 2nd. Here is a quick look at what's to come!

Reading	<p>For the month of April students will transition into our next nonfiction unit. This unit is based on the American Revolution and teaches students how to research history. In the first bend, students embark on a research project about the events leading up to the American Revolution. They are taught how to build their knowledge about a topic by reading accessible texts, how researchers pay attention to text structures in order to organize their notes and thinking, how to synthesize new information with what they already know, and to pay special attention to the people, geography, and chronology of the events they are studying.</p> <p>Important skills students are taught within this unit are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main Idea/Supporting Details• Summary• Inferring within a text/Cohesion• Cross Text Synthesis• Analyzing Perspective• Analyzing Parts of a Text in Relation to the Whole• Notetaking <p>It's important that your child completes all their homework to practice the skills we are learning in school, at home. Students should also be reading 40-45 minutes at home each night to strengthen their fluency, comprehension, and stamina.</p>
Writing	<p>This next writing unit is called Bringing History to Life. In this unit we will be writing an informational chapter book about the American Revolution. Students will write two informational chapters on the general topic, "all about the American Revolution," and then progress to a more focused topic. In each chapter students will learn how to introduce a topic and group related information then develop the topic, elaborate with facts, definitions, and details.</p> <p>At home students can collect information for their research of the American Revolution from books or online resources.</p>
Math	<p>Mathematicians will continue to study the attributes of shapes (mainly quadrilaterals), lines, and angles. We will also explore the concepts of perimeter and area.</p> <p>Activities to do at home: Have your child practice math activities on websites such as www.firstinmath.com. All 4th graders have account information in the back of their student planner. Students should also study their Geometry Vocabulary booklets that we made during the unit.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Science</p>	<p>Students investigate the question <i>How could more light at night make it hard for a Tokay gecko to see its prey?</i> Students build on their knowledge of eye structures by learning more about the different types of light receptors and how those influence how well animals can see in both low light and bright light. Students research various animal eyes in the reference book <i>Handbook of Animal Eyes</i>, conduct investigations in the digital simulation, and build a physical model of the eye in preparation for explaining why different animals need different amounts of light to see clearly</p> <p>Activities to do at home: Turn off the lights at home and ask your child to describe how the information they are getting changes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Social Studies</p>	<p>In this unit students will be researching the American Revolution. We will read books, watch videos, and research online to understand the events that led up to the American Revolution. This research will be used to support their understanding and provide time to collect information for their American Revolution books in writing class.</p> <p>At home students can continue their research. They can print off images and other resources that can be used in their informational books.</p>