

Escuela AMIGOS School/ 617-349-6567

What's New:

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Students Report:

Coming Soon!

Curriculum Focus

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break. The students returned well rested and excited to get going again in the New Year. Our curriculum focus for the next few months includes:

Reading

We are beginning our unit on Non-Fiction, specifically characteristics of informational texts. We will focus on the text features (headings, graphics, etc.) and structures (compare/contrast, cause/effect, etc.), signal words for vocabulary and how they can help us understand the information.

Writing

In connection to their reading, students will choose a content-related topic (Science and Social Studies) and write an informational piece, applying the features, structures and vocabulary they learned through reading this genre. Also, this month, we will be administering the winter writing assessment.

Poetry

We will continue to read and write poetry this quarter, with an emphasis on figurative language, such as, similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification and onomatopoeia.

Language/Word Study

In both languages, Read-Alouds are an effective method for modeling and teaching language skills.

In English, we are reading Winn-Dixie, as well as, informational picture books. In word study, we are focusing on spelling principles, such as patterns in multi-syllabic words, prefixes and suffixes, vocabulary and review of parts of speech.

In Spanish, we will be reading informational books and articles about the Solar System, Geography and other topics. We will also read traditional literature and poems about the Moon, the Sun and the stars.

Math

Currently, we are continuing our unit on geometry and measurement, which focuses on investigating quadrilaterals and other polygons, symmetry and area. We are also practicing and reinforcing computational fluency with all of the operations and reinforcement of place value and word problems. We encourage students to continue to practice multiplication combinations (up to 12's) at home.

Activities

FAST MATH:

Math practice is offered Tuesday to Friday mornings at 8AM at the computer room.

Book Club:

Contact Michele (Ana Gonzalez's mother) for more details.

4th grade Newsletter:

Students are encouraged to write about school related experiences for the classroom newsletter.

Authors' Corner

Come visit our collection of Memoirs written by our 4th grade authors!

Our next unit, "Landmarks & Large Numbers" will concentrate on addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 10,000.

Social Studies

Using the new curriculum materials, "Social Studies Alive, Regions of Our Country", students will participate in various activities to study the geographical features and how they affect life in each region of the U.S.

Science

We have begun studying the Solar System. From January to March, 4th grade astronomers will be asking questions, investigating, and building models to help them understand the relationships between day and night, the seasons, and the phases of the Moon with physical properties of the Solar System.

Test Taking Strategies

With MCAS approaching in March, we are beginning to spend some time to address test-taking strategies. These skills are important for students to feel comfortable and confident with the test taking process. We will incorporate these explicit strategies into the ongoing curriculum and also reinforce them through homework

assignments.

Responsive Classroom

During morning meetings, we will continue to build a community of friends and learners by discussing students' selected topics and by playing academic games to reinforce skills and knowledge.