

FOURTH GRADE BULLETIN

Putting It All Together!

Welcome back to school, fourth-graders! The students have made it all look easy by gliding smoothly back into school mode. They already knew their teachers, realized what was expected, and started off the year with a serious desire to succeed.

In math class, the fourth-graders started the year on a great note by doing such a fine job completing their summer workbooks and earning good scores on the test. Bravo, fourth-graders! The skills that you worked on over the summer will serve you well as you delve into more difficult material this year and beyond.

The beginning of the school year and the beginning of the textbook found the fourth-graders reviewing concepts such as standard form (place value), equations involving parentheses, multi-digit addition, subtraction, and multiplication, multiplying and dividing by powers of 10, long-division, and decimals and money. A few concepts, such as customary measurement and the metric system, which were briefly introduced last year, have been reintroduced and the students have devoted more time to them this year.

Currently, math classes are focused on division using decimal quotients instead of remainders, so that a more accurate answer is reached. Curricular emphasis is on functions and graphs and coordinates. Negative numbers have also been introduced.



Using blocks to demonstrate a history lesson.

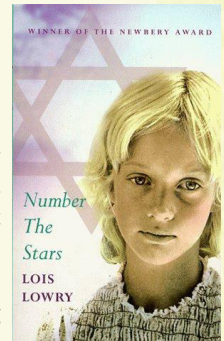
Math projects have been assigned, so get your creative juices flowing, fourth-graders!

Bienvenue, fourth-graders! The fourth-grade French students are learning and reviewing such greetings in class! The year started out with a review of the

names of the objects in the classroom. Next came acquiring the vocabulary associated with leisure activities. The students can now express which activities they enjoy, such as reading, playing soccer, or singing! In grammar, the class focused on possessive adjectives and the verb “être.”

Fourth-grade French students traveled to the Fairfax Wegman’s. At the supermarket, the “eat well, live well” tour provided information and encouragement of healthy eating habits. The staff of Wegman’s was extremely helpful in pointing out many of the French foods such as cheeses and breads. The tour also provided the students with information on the class cooking activity, which is potato leek soup (Soup poireaux- pommes de terre). Delicious! The recipe is included to try at home.

Themes of bravery, loyalty, and the terrors of World War II were complex topics engendering intense fourth-grade class discussions as they finished the novel, *Number the Stars*. Digging through the ethical drama of lying and breaking the law to save a friend, students shared their opinions and considered what they would do if they were Annemarie, the main character in the novel. As the students finished their class reading book, the time came to select their independent reading book. While they read their chosen novels at home, in class, the students will begin reading and analyzing short stories using the Open Court textbook. Fourth-graders are progressing in their understanding of complex grammar and are working to compose descriptive sentences and longer paragraphs. In writing class, students will tap into their creative side and write their own short stories in their journals!



Already this year, the fourth-graders have walked the streets of two major Bronze Age civilizations in Greece—the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. Through this study, they have developed a rich knowledge of the civilizations that formed the foundation for the great achievements of later Greeks. They learned about Sir Arthur Evans and Heinrich Schliemann, two legends in the field of archaeology. By reading the journals of these men, who were the first to

“Children are one-third of our population and all of our future.”

~ Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health

excavate at Knossos and Mycenae, the students were able to imagine what it was like to be involved in these incredibly important archaeological digs. Using the Starboard, students toured the elegantly decorated Palace of Knossos, where they saw the king's throne and the queen's chambers. By looking at a surviving fresco, they learned what it would be like to sit in the stands at an exciting bull-leaping event on Crete. They also studied the Greek myths about Crete, and had the chance to imagine themselves in the dark and damp labyrinth where the Minotaur hides, with a roar like an earthquake.

The architecture, tombs, and daily life of the Mycenaean provided a stark contrast to the study of the Minoan culture. Students were awestruck by the size and construction of the Treasury of Atreus as they took a virtual tour of the citadel at Mycenae and the surrounding landmarks. The Mycenaean play an important role in Homer's stories of the Trojan War, and studying this culture gave the fourth-graders a preview of the *Iliad and the Odyssey*, which they will read in the spring. They are eager to find out what happened to Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae, in Homer's famous poems.

In the second quarter, the students will leave their study of the Bronze Age and turn their attention to Greek religion and mythology. The fourth-graders already have abundant questions about mythology, and they enthusiastically await the opportunity to learn about the stories and beliefs of this complex ancient society.

Science class has begun in the second quarter, but the fourth-grade students had the chance to become world travelers in the first quarter of the year while studying geography. They reviewed a variety of map reading skills and geography of the United States. The United States, its five regions, state names, state capitals, state locations and physical features have also been reviewed. Some parents have enjoyed reviewing this information as well! The students then turned their attention to the world. In order to complement the fourth-grade history curriculum, the students ventured off to Greece, the Middle East, and Australia. Aren't they lucky?!



Mrs. Bernick and her students share smiles.

Potato Leek Soup (Soupe Poireaux Pommes de Terre)

Ingredients:

- 4 cups diced potatoes
- 3-4 cups thinly sliced leeks (3 or 4 leeks)
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth or bouillon (vegetable broth)
- 4 - 6 slices bacon, cooked, drained, and crumbled (optional)
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- ½ to 1 cup shredded cheese (optional)
- bouquet garni (traditionally parsley, thyme, bay leaf)
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Combine all ingredients and cook on low for 8 to 10 hours. Add evaporated milk and cheese, if used, in the last 30 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings. Mash with a potato masher to thicken or puree for a smooth consistency, adding additional milk or broth as necessary.

