

Stanley-Boyd Elementary

Fourth Grade Newsletter

-----January Edition-----

What We've Been Up To...

The first few weeks of 2018 have kept us busy! Read to learn about what we have been up to and what's still to come!

Upon returning to school after winter break, we jumped right back into the work we had started in December. We came back ready to master multiplication and boy, were we successful! We learned three different methods for multiplying multi-digit numbers over the course of unit 4 of Everyday Math. We realized how important multiplication facts are to be successful in multiplying! While we relied on our multiplication tables a lot, learning those math facts is still really important for us to continue to work on! After finishing that up, we began our fifth unit, focused on fractions and geometry. In this unit we will learn to add and subtract both fractions and mixed numbers. We will also learn more about angles and start thinking about the five different types of angles.



In reading, we have continued our work in Unit 3 of Wonders. This unit has us focusing on biographies and persuasive texts. We dug into both sets of texts as we learned how to identify the author's point of view (aka: the author's opinion on the subject). We also continued to learn more about prefixes, suffixes, roots, and context clues to help identify the meaning of unknown words! We have been taking weekly check ins to gauge our progress. Each week we have also been learning a new set of vocabulary words that helps us better understand the texts. Along with the vocabulary work, we have continued with our weekly spelling lists. We have impressed ourselves with how well we are doing each week with our words! Go us!

January brought a new writing project for us: Opinion Essays. At the start of the month we examined a number of model texts and identified what good opinion writing looks like. From there, we researched with partners to come up evidence to support our opinions on a set topic: Should schools require cursive writing? We are still working on our drafting and finalizing our essays but as we begin finishing up, we will be sending them off to different fourth grade teachers to see if we can persuade them to be on our side of the debate. Aside from our writing project, each week we have continued with our Grammar Mondays. This unit's focus is on different types of verbs. We have gotten better at identifying correct verbs in different tenses, even when the verb is irregular.



The HUMAN MACHINE. That's our current focus in science. Over the last few weeks we have spent time learning more about our bones, muscles, and eyes. We learned about how important bones are in order to give our bodies structure and protection and how without our muscles we wouldn't be able to move. Throughout this time, we have experimented by making a robot finger and comparing it to our own, as well as making an eye model to think about how our eyes allow us to see. As we finish this unit, we will focus on our brains and learn about how they are the control center for our bodies!

