



**Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School**

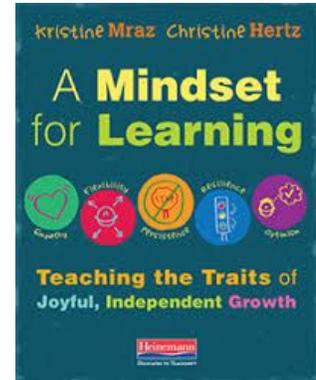
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# Fourth Grade Team Newsletter

November 01, 2019



**Reading:** This month we will be finishing our unit on interpreting characters and jumping into our second unit of the year, entitled "Reading the Weather, Reading the World: Purposeful Reading of Nonfiction." In this unit, students will use the topic of extreme weather to focus on improving their nonfiction reading skills. The main skills taught and assessed in this unit are:

- Developing their own ideas based on nonfiction texts and research
- Determining main idea with supporting details/summarizing
- Analyzing parts of a text in relation to the whole
- Analyzing author's craft & synthesizing ideas across texts

Throughout the unit, we will focus on conducting research, summarizing information and using that information to grow ideas. As we begin nonfiction reading work in the classroom, students can also practice these skills with nonfiction texts at home. Below are some ways to help at home when your student is reading nonfiction.

### **Questions you can ask at home to support your reader:**

- What is the main idea of this text or part of the text? What details do you have to support this?
- Can you summarize part of the text that you just read?
- Why do you think the author included this part of the text? Why is it important?
- Can you identify and craft techniques the other uses?
- What were the author's goals in writing this piece?
- What choices did you notice the author made?
- Can you put together information from two different texts or compare and contrast two different texts on the same topic?

**Writing:** We have officially begun our personal opinion/persuasive writing unit. In this unit, students will begin by writing personal opinion essays about topics that matter to them. They will build upon their knowledge of the structure of an essay that they developed last year. In this unit students will work on:

- Creating clear and meaningful thesis statements
- Elaborating to support their thesis statements with strong reasons and clear, detailed evidence
- Knowing how to use advanced transition words and phrases correctly to connect their ideas

After creating personal opinion essays, they will transform these into persuasive essays where they are writing to defend an idea and persuade a specific audience to agree with their thesis statement. A skill that will be focused on is being able to connect their evidence back to their reasons by proving why it supports their idea.

**Math:** We are still in the midst of our second math unit which is called Multi-Digit Multiplication & Early Division. As a reminder, in this unit your child will:

- Multiply by 10, 100, and 1,000
- Multiply 2-digit numbers
- Represent multiplication with arrays and ratio tables
- Divide with and without remainders
- Solve multiplication and division story problems

We have attached the unit family newsletter below which gives you more detailed information on strategies being taught throughout the unit.

**Social Studies:** This month we will begin our social studies unit entitled Three Worlds Meet. The Essential Question for this unit is; What motivates people to explore and colonize other lands? Focus questions include:

- Why did Europeans settle the New World?
- How did trade and agriculture help the development of colonial New York?
- How did Africans, Native Americans, and women contribute to the development of colonial New York? What was life like in New Amsterdam and colonial New York?
- How did Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans interact with one another in early New Amsterdam/New York? How did the Dutch and English influence the development of colonial New York?

**Science:** We are finishing our work in the *Energy Conversions* unit. As the unit comes to an end, students will be writing design arguments to prove which city plan for less blackouts

would be best for Ergstown. Students will use evidence from books, simulations and hands on tasks to provide evidence for their argument.

**Important Dates:**

**Nov 5th Election day NO SCHOOL**

**Nov 11th Veterans Day NO SCHOOL**

**Nov 14 Early Dismissal Student Led Conferences**

**Nov 28th and 29th Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL**

## How Can I Be the Best Me Stances:

<p><b>Optimism</b></p> <p>Feeling hopeful that risks are worth taking and that problems will work their way out. When you do something new, you think, "I can try," and give it your best shot because that's how you grow.</p>	<p><b>Flexibility</b></p> <p>Seeing and trying many possible actions within a task. When one thing doesn't work out, you try a different way.</p>	<p><b>Resilience</b></p> <p>Bouncing back and recovering from setbacks or failures. When you have trouble, you bounce back and try again.</p>
<p><b>Persistence</b></p> <p>Sticking with something even when it is challenging. Having persistence means you try and try again even when it feels hard.</p>	<p>How can I help my brain grow?</p>	<p><b>Empathy</b></p> <p>Feeling how another person is feeling and imagining what it would be like to be in another's position. You have empathy when you feel someone's feelings in your own heart.</p>