



Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School

37 Hicks Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel 718 834 6740 Fax 718 834 7690

Patricia Peterson, Principal | **Caren Gandelman**, Assistant Principal

5th Grade Newsletter

February 7, 2020



Lunar New Year

Humanities

Reading: Unit Three: Researching Debatable Issues:

In reading, we are in the midst of our fourth unit: Argument and Advocacy. This unit is about researching debatable issues, thinking critically and forming one's own opinion. During Bend I, students read articles based on a research question of their choosing. The questions we offered were:

1. Should people support or boycott zoos?
2. Should people be focused on protecting humans from sharks or sharks from humans?
3. Should plastic bags be banned?
4. Should people be climbing Mt. Everest?
5. Should homework be banned from schools?
6. Should plastic water bottles be banned?

Presently, students are doing the majority of reading and note-taking independently, however, groups have been coming together to debate their issues and share research with each other. In addition to working on foundational reading skills such as identifying main idea and supporting details, students have been analyzing how information either supports or challenges their opinions on a topic. Throughout this unit, students have been learning to question the texts that they are reading and compare information being presented from different authors.

Writing: Unit Three: Argument Based Essay:

In writing, we have started a new unit: Research Based Argument Essays. This unit links nicely with our reading unit. At the beginning of this unit, students investigated and wrote arguments about whether or not smartphones are helpful or harmful to kids in schools. Students learned that to develop a solid argument, they must begin by researching both sides of the issue. They wrote essays or letters geared towards the PTA (chosen audience), developing their thesis and reasons, while simultaneously deciding which details and facts would further their argument. Each class will present their findings to a live audience, in order to work on their oral debate skills. In the second part of this unit, students will be writing argument based essays on the debatable issue they have chosen to research in reading.

Math

We are starting **Unit 4 Multiplying & Dividing Whole Numbers & Decimals.**

In this unit your child will:

- Use a variety of strategies for multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers
- Practice using the standard algorithm to multiply multi-digit whole numbers
- Begin multiplying and dividing with decimal numbers

To get an overview of the skills students will learn in this unit, please read the [Overview Parent Letter](#) on the Bridges in Mathematics website. If you are interested in a more thorough explanation of concepts, skills, and strategies taught, as well as their connection to learning beyond 5th grade, check out the [Mathematical Background for Unit 4](#).



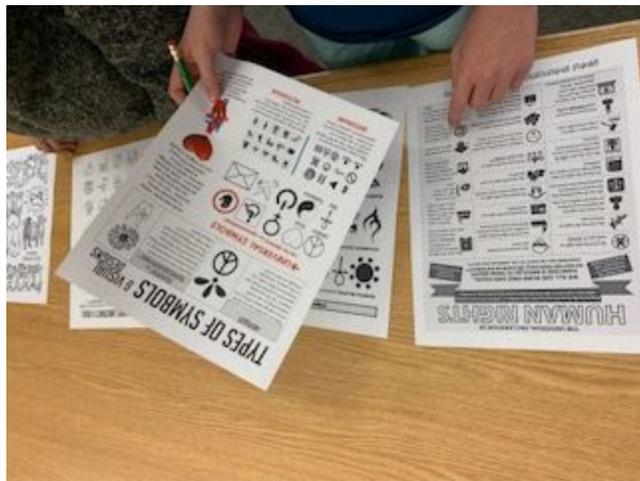
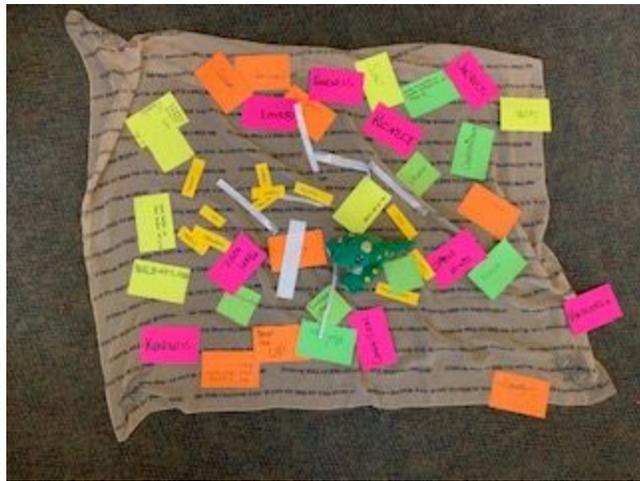
Science



This month, we will continue our science unit called Modeling Matter. In this unit the students take on the role of food scientists and engage in two investigations. They have already learned how to identify a potentially hazardous food dye in a mixture, and are now learning how to create a good-tasting and visually appealing salad dressing that does not separate into layers and contains no sediment.

By the end of the unit, students will understand that there is a connection between the observable properties of materials and the properties of the molecules of which those materials are composed. Students will also be able to explain a variety of things that can happen when two substances are mixed, at both the observable scale and the nanoscale.

Advisory



This month in Advisory, we are learning about the Black Lives Matter movement as last week was the Week of Action. We are connecting the historical context to the present day movement. We are exploring

Reconstruction, Jim Crow, The Civil Rights Movement and the current need for the movement. Here is an example of a resource we are using: <https://theundefeated.com/videos/this-one-is-for-us/>.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- February 17-21: Winter Break
- March 5: Student-Led Conferences