



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

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# Fourth Grade Team Newsletter

February 7th, 2019



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**Get ready for an exciting month as students take a journey into history and study the American Revolution in Social Studies, Reading and Writing Workshop. It's one of our students' favorite units year after year.**

**Reading: Reading History: The American Revolution** In this unit, students will use topics from the American Revolution to focus on improving their nonfiction reading skills, including conducting research, note-taking skills, summarizing/paraphrasing information and using thought prompts to grow their own ideas on the topic.

**Main Skills Assessed:**

- **Determining the Main Idea with Supporting Details/Summarizing**
- **Analyzing the Parts of the Text in Relation to the Whole**
- **Analyzing Perspective**
- **Cross-Text Synthesis**

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

- What is the main idea of this 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? What does it make you think?
- What perspective is shown in this passage?
- 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 on the same topic?

**Writing: Bringing History to Life** In this unit, students will transfer the information that they are gathering through their research into an **informational book** on their specific topic. The students will create different chapters to support their topic. They must think about what information is most important and interesting to include in their books. The students also need to think about how they can teach their readers about the topic in a clear way. They work on elaborating by including details such as dates, specific facts, quotes, names of people involved, important numbers, as well as descriptive language. They will learn to include nonfiction text features to support their writing such as headings, subheadings, diagrams, etc. Throughout the unit, they will use more complex transition phrases to link and introduce ideas as well as display text structure within their writing. Lastly, students will work on historical interpretation by growing their own opinions about their topics while also thinking about life lessons that can be learned from these historical events and people.

**Math: Unit 5 Geometry & Measurement** In this unit, your child will:

- Measure angles using protractors and determine angle measurements based upon given information
- Sort and classify shapes based upon the number and kinds of sides and angles they have
- Calculate the area and perimeter of rectangles

Use the free Math Vocabulary Cards app for additional support found at [mathlearningcenter.org/apps](http://mathlearningcenter.org/apps). (Each class will also send home the family overview that includes more specific details about the unit)

**Social Studies: Revolutionary War Unit** Students will be studying the events leading up to the American Revolution, as well as important battles, the development of the Declaration of Independence, the ending of the war, and the overall importance of this historical time. There will also be a large focus on understanding multiple perspectives and using primary sources as a means of learning valuable information about the time period. Students analyze images, quotes, and various written documents to gain insight into different perspectives during this time period.

**To Practice Analyzing Primary Sources, we use this website:**

<https://4thgrade8.weebly.com/>

**Important Dates**

**Monday, February 17- February 21st : School Closed: Mid-Winter Recess**

Here are some photos celebrating the work our students have been doing around mindset, building community and Social Studies.

