



3/4 Unit Newsletter

December 2018

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, 12/14– Early Release 1:00

Monday 12/24–Tuesday 1/1–
NO SCHOOL– Winter Break

Classes resume Wednesday 1/2/19.

STAR Testing December 10-14

Your child will be taking two computer assessments during the week of December 10-14: STAR reading and STAR math. They have taken these tests at other points this year and will take them again before the year is through.

We know that there are many more important qualities in our students than their scores on a specific test on a specific day. However, we do use these scores to plan for intervention or enrichment, as well as for an indication of the work we need to do to prepare for the Forward exam later this school year.

Please consider chatting with your child about the importance of doing their best each day so that their scores may more accurately reflect the learners we know them to be.

What We're Studying

READING: We are continuing our study of informational texts. Ask your child what he/she has been reading and researching! This unit will take us through the month of December.

WRITING: Personal and persuasive essays are taking shape as we create opinions and support them. Students will also be including some research into their writing to make it more powerful.

MATH: *Third graders* are focusing on multi-digit addition and subtraction, as well as rounding and estimating. You may be seeing some unique strategies for solving problems, not just the algorithm! We will continue this work through winter break.

Fourth graders are working hard on fractions and decimals. We have been digging deep into learning about equivalent fractions, as well as comparing fractions and decimals.

CONTENT: Right now we are wondering: How do natural processes shape the Earth? We are looking forward to exploring weathering, erosion, and other ways that our land changes. We will do this through videos, reading, investigations, models, and experiments. This unit is just beginning, so you can look forward to hearing more about it as the month continues!

Coming soon: Narratives!

The 3/4 team is hard at work compiling the stories of your child's learning so far this year. These stories, which we call narratives, will be coming to you via mail in January. They will be a much better picture of your child as a learner than any test score or report card grade. We are proud to share these stories with you.