

4th Grade News

Highlights of the Week

Note: Our school is collecting donations for the humane society up to the last day of school before December break. Students were given a list of things that would be appropriate to donate.

Math

We have put a strong emphasis on showing models and solving multi-step word problems. Students are learning to break apart a word problem and create an equation to represent what is being asked to solve. We are using parentheses and order of operations in our equations.

Science

We have started our new unit on Earth's features and Processes. Our first lesson this week was about volcanoes. Below in the pictures you will see students plotting points on a map to find out where volcanoes occur. They learned about the ring of fire!

ELA

We began the week by reviewing the parts of a basic paragraph (topic sentence, detail sentences, and concluding sentence), including using transition words to help make the writing flow. Now we are learning about the 5 main ways nonfiction texts can be structured (description, sequence, compare & contrast, cause & effect, problem & solution). Being able to recognize these different text structures will help students to more easily and effectively navigate nonfiction texts.

Global Studies

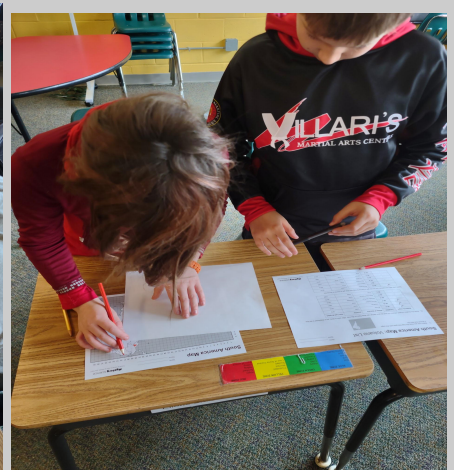
Student travel agents at the Echo Valley Travel Agency continue to make good progress in their research assignments. Their knowledge about their region of the United States deepens every day as they dig into their articles, books, and videos on their topic. They are showing a lot of drive and focus in their research, and we are excited to soon have everyone share what they've learned at an upcoming Travel Agency meeting.

Conversation Starters

- What do parentheses mean in a math equation? (Do that work first)
- What should you do if a word problem is hard to understand the first time you read it? (Re-read, break it down into parts, ask yourself what do I need to answer in this problem?)
- What does order of operations mean? (The order that you solve an equation that has multi-steps)
- Can a volcano pop up in your backyard?
- What is the ring of fire? (An area in our world that has volcanoes and is shaped like a ring)
- What does a hamburger have to do with a paragraph? (the top bun represents a topic sentence, each filling represents the detail sentences, and the bottom bun is the concluding sentence)
- How is a description paragraph organized? What about a sequence paragraph or a compare & contrast paragraph? What are some key words you might find in each type of paragraph? (description: for example; sequence: first, next, then, finally; compare & contrast: in comparison, similarly, unlike, on the other hand)

- What new facts have you learned about your region of the US?
- Why was Omakayas's attempt to harvest rice for her family such a disaster?

Photos



When students put their maps together we were able to see a pattern with the volcanoes around the world. This is called the Ring of Fire!

