

NEWS FROM ROOM 4

NOVEMBER 2018 EDITION

Hello Families!

Thank you coming through with donations for the Minecraft raffle gift basket. It was a very popular item at the Fall Carnival. It was fun to see so many of you there and at the Halloween Parade!

JUST RIGHT BOOKS

In order to grow as readers, it is important for students to read books that are just right for them. This means they need to be able to not just decode the words, but understand what they are reading and enjoy the story and learn from their books. During Parent-Teacher Conferences, many of you asked how to find books that are just right for your child. I put some links to lists of levelled books on my teacher website. There are also a couple of apps you can use to find out the level of books that you find at the library or bookstore.



MONARCH BUTTERFLY TOUR FIELD TRIP

We are looking forward to our first field trip to the Monarch Butterfly Tour on November 16th, 12:00-2:10pm. Please make sure to sign the permission slip and have your child return it to school.

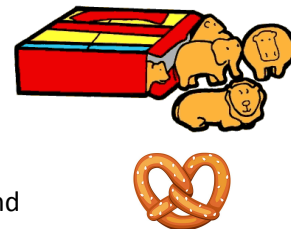
We'll be driving to Monarch Bay in cars. All children under the age of 8 must bring a booster seat. If a student is over the age of 8 or over 4 feet 9 inches tall, a booster seat is not required.



A big thank you to those of you who have begun the volunteer clearance process! We need more volunteers and drivers to chaperone our trip, so please register as a school volunteer if you are able. Fingerprints and TB clearance are required of all field trip volunteers per new district policy. Drivers must show proof of insurance.

SNACK AND SUPPLY DONATIONS NEEDED

We have worked through our snack pantry and are in need of more healthy snacks. Donations of pretzels, animal crackers, graham crackers, Ritz, Goldfish, and Cheeze-Its in bulk would be helpful. It would also be helpful to have more #2 pencils (Ticonderoga are best) and Crayola color pencils. Many thanks!



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

November 12th: No School - Veterans' Day Holiday
November 16th: Monarch Butterfly Tour Field Trip
November 16th: Last day of Reading Academy Round 2
November 19-23: No School - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26th: First Day of Reading Academy Round 3

READING




Our current unit is about animals. We studied how animals are adapted to various climates. Soon, we will be learning about animal habitats and life cycles.

We also read fables and thought about the life lessons or morals that they teach us. It was challenging for many students to think beyond the text to determine what the author was trying to teach through the story. We'll be circling back to this topic, but in the meantime, if you have a chance, read some classic and modern fables with your student and have them think about the lesson or moral of the story.



MATH

I hope the Math News that I have been sending home has been helpful. All Math News will be posted on my teacher page on the Madison Elementary website for your reference.

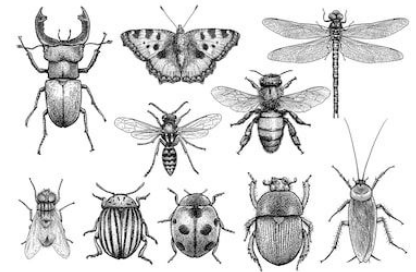
Hundreds	Tens	Ones
		

Our current unit is about place value and counting to 1,000. I launched the topic by dumping out 1,000+ plastic straws on the rug. I had students estimate how many straws they thought there were. Their guesses ranged from 105 to 1 billion! Students then counted the straws into bundles of 10. Next, we counted by tens to make groups of 100. Finally, we counted by hundreds to get to 1,000. Though 1,000 seemed like a really big number, we were able to count to 1,000 quickly using tens and hundreds. We have learned all the different ways to write a number, using pictures, words, number bonds, and number sentences. We are now applying our place value knowledge to working with money.

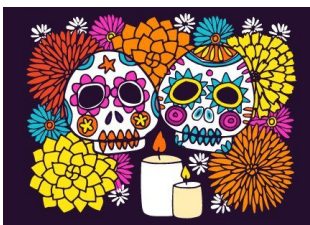


SCIENCE

In preparation for the Monarch Butterfly Tour field trip, we have been studying insects. We learned the characteristics of insects - what all insects have and extra parts that some have. Students then chose an insect to research and did scientific illustrations of their insect and created a fact sheet to go along with it. This gave us an opportunity to talk about the difference between cartoon drawings and realistic drawings. It is my hope that, after studying insects and learning about all the ways in which they are amazing, students will have a greater appreciation for insects and not run away from or want to kill them when they see them in the world.



We are launching our first Science Unit this month using FOSS Kits. The focus will be on observing the life cycle of mealworms. See the attached letter for more details.



HOLIDAYS

We celebrated Halloween by learning about the history of Halloween treats and using color theory to make creepy self-portraits. We also wrote adjective poems about a variety of different pumpkins. Then, we learned about Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. This led to much rich sharing about loved ones who have died

and how we can remember and celebrate them. We also visited the altar in the Library.