

4th Grade News & Notes

Week of February 21-26

Upcoming Events

* **Friday, March 12** - SMSOC Variety Show @ 1p in the Great Hall

What's Happening at School?

Math - The class started the week by reviewing how to estimate products. This time, we practiced rounding larger numbers before multiplying. To continue their practice of estimating and multiplying, the kids took part in the Multiplication Biathlon, which involved laps of solving problems and then shooting at a target to earn points. Our gold medal winner was Phil Stanton, from 3rd grade. Silver went to our visitor Jamie, and bronze went to Tyler. As a further tie-in to the Olympics, the class watched a video that explored how math is an integral part of the events of the Winter Games. Finally, the kids completed a review for Chapter 7 and took their test on Friday.

Reading - The kids started the week by reading part 1 of a 5-part art mystery. We also read and discussed "The Love Powder," which is about a young man who has a crush on a local girl. However, he is too afraid to share his feelings, so he tries to sabotage the coming marriage between the girl and another man. We continued our read aloud, *The Calder Game*, and as always, the students spent time reading independently during our Readers Workshop.

Language - The class reviewed the 3 types of verbs, action, linking, and helping. They also reviewed the 3 simple tenses, past, present, and future. During Writers Workshop, the kids started their new narratives - detective stories. For inspiration, the class watched an episode of the TV show *Psych*, which follows the work of a fake psychic detective and his partner. Using the mystery concepts that we have been discussing in class (witness, suspect, alibi, motive, evidence, red herring, etc.), the kids' stories will involve a crime to be solved by a detective. The kids first completed a graphic organizer to help get their ideas down on paper, and they then began their rough drafts.

Science - In science class, we have been exploring elements of music, such as tempo, rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, and major and minor chords. We have then been relating these elements to the emotions that music can evoke. We compared the timbre of our voices through a guessing game we created with the music program *Audacity*. We listened to different piano chords and compared the feelings they evoked. We listened to selections of classical music, described the songs and how they made us feel, and tried to determine what elements helped to evoke certain emotions.

Performing Arts - *Information Not Provided*

Spanish - *Information Not Provided*

Studio - Inspired by the mysterious “Minotaur” sculpture in our read aloud book, *The Calder Game*, the kids have been creating their own miniature interpretations of the sculpture.

P.E. - In honor of the ongoing Winter Olympics, the class has been taking part in Olympic themed activities and games.