

# Mrs. LaRoche's



## Newsletter

4th Grade  
Van Allen

### Social Studies:

#### The Northeast Region

Students have learned about several interesting places in the Northeast including, West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Maine, Mount Washington in New Hampshire, Plymouth and Boston, Massachusetts, the Erie Canal and New York City in New York, Hershey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and finally, Washington D.C. You can check in with your child, at home, by asking: 1) Why is the Northeast considered the "birthplace of our nation". 2) Why did our nation's first factories start in the Northeast? 3) What large cities are found in the Northeast?

Students will now use a technology app, My Maps, to either plan a trip to the Northeast or to plot the sites of the monuments found in the Northeast region. We will then learn about the population density of the Northeast region.

### Math

Students have learned to estimate quotients of division problems and to find exact answers using partial quotients and the standard algorithm. It has been helpful to solve the same division equation twice. Once using partial quotients and once using the standard algorithm so students see that the standard algorithm is just a shortcut of partial quotients. We will continue working with division and will also focus on solving multi-step word problems, throughout the remainder of the month.

### Reading

We will learn that an inference is not something the author directly tells you but you are expected to figure out. We will make inferences at three different levels: the word level, the page level, and the book level. Word level: use clues from the text to infer what an unknown word means. Page level: infer events throughout the book. Book level: infer the intended theme of the book. We will use some great picture books like, Teammates by Peter Golenbock and Encounter by Jane Yolen to practice inferences at all three levels. You can help at home by asking "Why/What do you think..." questions while reading.

### Writing

Students are learning to write an informational essay with a topic paragraph, several paragraphs in the body, and then a concluding paragraph. We are practicing right now by writing an informational essay about holidays. Students are writing the body paragraphs with some teacher help and then we will write the topic and concluding paragraphs together. Later this month, students will have a chance to independently write an informational essay about living a healthy life.