

Mrs. LaRoche's



Newsletter

4th Grade
Van Allen

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016

Writing

Mrs. Staskal, our instructional coach at Van Allen, will teach writing in our classroom this month. She has already introduced students to the idea of informational writing and led the class in writing informational paragraphs about our school. Students are now choosing topics of their own. Mrs. Staskal will teach students about organization, word choice, and sentence fluency throughout the remainder of the month.



Social Studies

Students have become proficient with basic map skills and have learned to read elevation, annual rainfall, and population density maps.

Students will now learn how five ethnic groups- Native Americans, Latinos, European Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans came to this country and contributed to its growth and development.



Science

We will continue with our Soils, Rocks, and Landforms unit this month. This week we will use landform models to learn about erosion and deposition. Then we will find places in our schoolyard where erosion and deposition are happening and also learn about events (earthquakes, floods, landslides, and volcanic eruptions) that change Earth's surface quickly. We will then move into investigation 3: Rocks and Minerals. During this investigation students will learn that rocks are made of ingredients called minerals and minerals are made of only one ingredient. Students will learn to describe rocks and minerals by their properties (hardness, streak, and luster). Finally, they will learn how the three types of rocks, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, are formed.

Math

We have begun our Multiplication Unit. We quickly reviewed basic facts (factors of 0-9) and now are using basic fact knowledge to solve more complex problems. We will continue with multiplication for the remainder of the month. Students will learn to use several different strategies to solve multiplication problems and use estimation to see if their answer is reasonable.



Iowa Assessments

The week of Oct. 17 we will be taking the Iowa Assessments. We will take several tests each morning, with breaks in between, and then have normal classes in the afternoons. There will be no homework sent home the week of testing in hopes that students will get to bed early and be well rested to show their stuff on the tests!