

### Montessori Academy

Rochester, NY

January 2017

Ms. Harris’s Classroom Newsletter

# 4th Grade

Your child has started planning an opinion essay. She is expected to write an introduction paragraph stating her opinion, two body paragraphs with reasons and evidence, and a conclusion paragraph restating her opinion. Your child has been using her background knowledge on how to write an opinion essay to make her argument clear and persuasive. A copy will be sent home when she is done.

We finished our units on parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives) and will begin to focus our attention on reading comprehension. Your child will be working with other students from Mrs. Foley’s class to read books at their level. Students will be expected to read the passages multiple times. After the first reading, they will discuss the main idea (what the text was mostly about). After the second reading, they will underline the topic sentence and circle 3-5 key words in each sentence. After the final reading, they will look for evidence to answer comprehension questions and circle the evidence. Please encourage your child to follow this process at home when he does his independent reading.

# 2nd Grade

Your students will finish their writing assignments this week. They made interviews with fictional colonial people using information they gained from multiple different sources (books and digital). Their use of compound sentences have been encouraged. Next, we will start a unit on different informational texts while learning about the rainforest in South America, including the El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico.

We are well into the novel *Island of the Blue Dolphin*. We will continue to improve understanding of vocabulary, but also focus on heavily on comprehension skills and using evidence from the text to support their answer. Every week, your student is given two comprehension questions for 3-4 chapters, requiring them to gather evidence, analyze the evidence, and write a constructed response. In each constructed response, students have a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion sentences.

# 5th Grade

We need your help! Students are becoming sick more frequently lately, because of this they are using more hand sanitizer and the tables need to be cleaned more. If families could donate hand sanitizer or disinfecting whips the students and I would really appreciate it. We are trying to minimize the germs in our room.



# 3rd Grade

# What’s new?