

# THE NEWS FROM 4TH GRADE

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## Science

In **Chapter 1** we're studying about living things: how to classify them into groups, the different types of animals and plants, and having fun with fungi (mushrooms). We used microscopes to look for microorganisms from area ponds and waters last week. The kids have surprised me with their excitement and enthusiasm about science. I have a feeling it's going to be lots of fun this year!



## Social

This year we're going to be studying about the United States. We've been talking about how dividing things into groups makes it easier to study them. In social these groups are called regions. We'll be studying about the U.S. by dividing it into regions based on natural and cultural features. We'll start with the Northeast region.

## Math

We're reviewing our basic facts in math class. I've been encouraging the kids to think of different ways to solve problems. The actual method used to calculate answers in math doesn't really matter as long as they can get the right answer and understand what they are doing. If your child is struggling with a math assignment this year and you can think of an easier way to approach the problem -- go for it -- as long as they get the right answer, the method they choose to use doesn't really matter.

## Reading

**One of the goals of the reading program at Pioneer Elementary is to encourage the kids to become more independent in their reading. This is something you can really encourage at home. We started library last week. By the 4th grade, children should be reading a good chapter book every 1 to 2 weeks. You can help your child by asking them questions about what books they're reading, what the books are about, and monitoring whether or not they are finishing them.**

**HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**

