



Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

April 30, 2021

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community.

THIRD GRADE NEWS: Mrs. Yoon & Ms. Fenton

We hope you all had a wonderful and restful Spring Break! We can't believe that May is almost here! Our third graders have been working very hard, and we are so proud of them. In math, we are learning to solve multi-step word problems using all four operations of math (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). We are also learning to recognize patterns when multiplying by multiples of 10. In reading, our students are beginning to compare and contrast paired nonfiction texts. They are going to use these skills to write short compare and contrast essays soon! In science, we are wrapping up our physical science unit by learning all about non-contact forces, including our favorite kind: magnets! In social studies, students are excited to begin our unit on economics, starting with recognizing the difference between a 'need' and a 'want.' Please continue to practice multiplication facts up to 12 with your child as this is a vital skill for fourth grade, and as always, continue to read with them for at least 20 minutes a night.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS: Ms. Mastellone

Fourth grade mathematicians have been studying the customary measurement system. The customary measurement system is a set of weights and measures used for measuring length, weight, and capacity in the United States. All the children have been learning to compare the measurements of length, capacity, and weight, as well as, convert small units to large units and large units to small units. In science, the students are researching sound energy. They have discovered that sound waves are longitudinal waves that are caused by vibrations in matter. Everyone is exploring the characteristics of sound, like, loudness and pitch. Taking that information, the children studied the ear to find out how humans take in waves and interpret them as sounds.



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FOURTH GRADE NEWS: Mrs. Dinkjian

The fourth grade has been Writing to Inform: Telling or teaching about a specific topic through the use of facts, definitions, and examples. Our assignment was to write a cooking magazine article informing chefs about the ingredients they use. The requirements of this project were to; gather and organize information from two different sources, write an introductory paragraph, write the body-three paragraphs that support the topic, and then a closing paragraph-that the reader should know by the end of the reading, after all, we are informing our readers about a specific topic. Our writing skills have grown from writing a simple paragraph to writing five paragraph essays. work. We've accomplished this through the use of the Writing Process. The steps to great writing to inform are: research, prewriting, drafting, revising , editing and publishing. To the side is a sample of one student's work. Please ask your child to share their writing with you because it's time to celebrate their hard work.

April 28, 2021

Bet You Didn't Know...Would you want to be paid in blocks of salt? Probably not! Long ago, Roman soldiers were paid in blocks of salt! That's how expensive and valuable it was. Salt and spices have always been used for seasoning food, but were also used for many other things. If only spices could speak, they would tell you about their glory days when spices ruled the world through trade and the power it created.

When Roman emperor Nero lost his wife, he wanted to show the depth of his grief. How? By burning a year's supply of cinnamon. When an enemy invaded Rome in the year 410, their leader demanded gold, silk, jewels and 3,000 pounds of peppercorns. Egyptians had a different use for spices though. They used various spices including cinnamon, to embalm, or preserve, bodies after death. The Egyptians believed this might please their gods, who would then give the dead a happy afterlife. The hieroglyphics show the workers who built the pyramids in Egypt eating onions and garlic. Even in the Ancient Olympic Games, athletes were rewarded with crowns made of plants, including bay leaves or myrtle! Ancient Greek and Roman scientists, including Hippocrates, Galen, and Pliny, also believed spices had healing properties. Today scientists believe spices such as turmeric, cinnamon, oregano, and sage might be able to treat conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and high cholesterol.

Around the world, cities were founded, roads were built, wars were fought, and trade routes were established because of spices. People who controlled salt had power. Around 2,000 years ago the Romans controlled the salt and power. One way Rome controlled salt was by building villages along the Mediterranean coast. Throughout history and around the world governments have regulated and taxed salt. Salt played a role in the history of our country, too. Rome added to its own financial strength and its power over other civilizations. Spices had become very, very valuable and soon only wealthy people could afford them. Cities and nations all over Europe began to battle for the title of spice-trade powerhouse. After, the competition for control of the spice trade turned bloody. In both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, keeping enough salt for the soldiers was important.

When Portugal sent the explorer Vasco da Gama on a spice finding mission in 1497 it was a smashing success! Soon, Portugal became the new spice boss, but not for long. In the mid 1600's, after Holland gained control of Malacca in Indonesia the European nation became the newest spice ruler. Dutch traders began to burn down cinnamon trees, which made the spice rarer and much more expensive. Fun Fact: Salarium Argentum or "salt money," gave us our word salary. The Romans built a road called "Via Salarium" and as you might have guessed, it was built to transfer salt. Rome grew to become a great trading center. Because more people could afford to eat well, which in turn meant a higher demand for spices. Demanding spices in other parts of the world led to a booming spice trade. All trade involved making a grueling trip over land routes with a caravan of camels to carry the spices. The Silk Road helped to spread ideas, inventions and cultures, as well as spices and silk, across much of the world. After the European nation became the newest spice rulers they made spices very expensive, so American business people decided to take matters into their own hands by starting their own spice companies. They decided to trade directly with spice growers in Asia and avoid the European trade companies. People also transplanted spices from India in other parts of the world, so they were much more easily available to all!

Although spices aren't as valuable as they once were, they're still very important for improving the flavor of our food. The next time you reach for one of your spice containers, think about how these tiny morsels have had a huge impact on the world.

Sources: "Why Salt? Valuable Little Cubes" by Leigh Anderson and David Chandler and "The Life Of Spice" by Anush Rana

Dates to Remember
