

Unit 4 Newsletter

Patriotic Songs and Symbols

The Focus in Reading

In our fourth unit we will focus on reading informational texts. Students will learn about patriotic symbols and songs that are important to our country, such as the Bald Eagle, the Statue of Liberty, the American Flag and the White House and songs such as *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, *The Star Spangled Banner*, and *God Bless America*. Students will learn the meaning and significance of the symbols from online videos and informational books.

Students will learn how to:

- *Build their knowledge about nonfiction text features*
- *Gather information from a variety of informational resources*
- *Take notes onto graphic organizers*

How Can You Help?

While reading at home, focus on informational texts. After reading have your child explain the main idea and key details within the text. In addition, help your child ask questions during reading to monitor comprehension (understanding). You can also ask your child to point out the text features (heading, caption, diagram, table of contents, index, etc.) and have them explain why these are helpful.

Focus in Writing

In this unit the writing focus is on taking notes using graphic organizers and transferring the notes into a finished piece of writing.

Student will learn how to:

- *Write an informational piece that includes the name of the topic, key facts, a sense of closure, and an illustration.*
- *Use nonfiction text features to support learning*
- *Take notes onto graphic organizers*

How Can You Help?

After reading informational texts or watching videos ask your child to identify the main topic and share a few key details / facts. Have your child write down the topic and details.

Wrap Up!

At the end of the unit students will be assessed (given a CEPA – Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessment) to evaluate their understanding of ideas presented to them. Student will asked to write an informational piece about one of the patriotic symbols they have learned about, explain its significance, and include key facts.