

MATH:

Introduced Chapter 13: Area and Perimeter

ERB's

READING:

Island of the Blue Dolphins

PIE

What Was the Gold Rush?

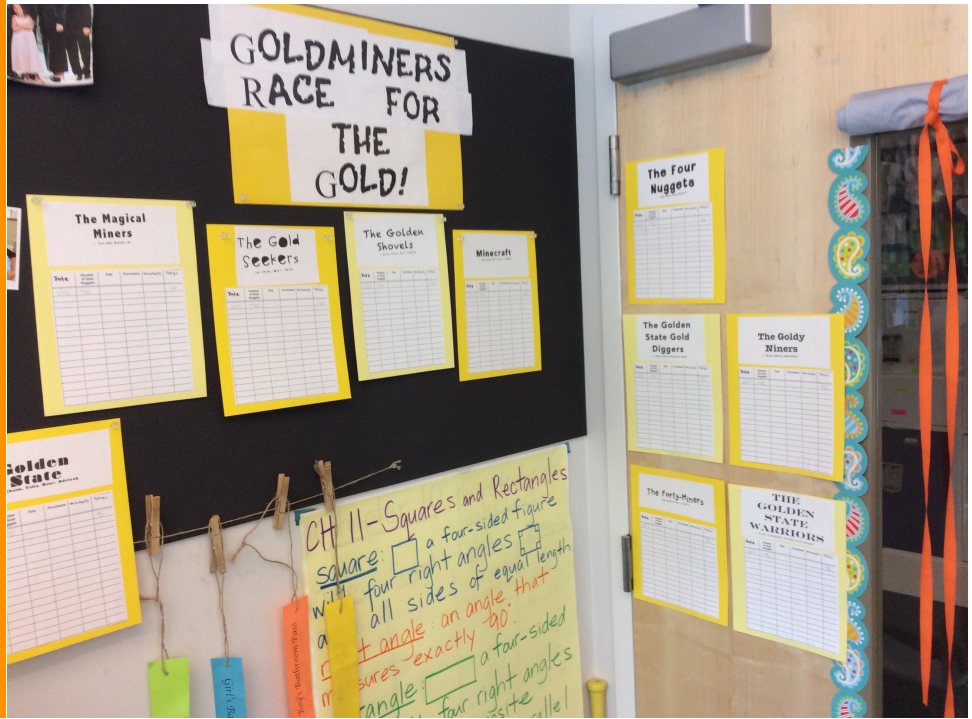
LANGUAGE ARTS:

ERB's

SOCIAL

STUDIES/WRITING:

The Gold Rush Game!



MAY 20th, 2016

Ms. Giss and Mrs. Daftari's involved
4th Grade

VT Ranch!

We are so excited to be heading out to Santa Clarita this Wednesday for our gold rush experience! Students should arrive at school promptly by 7:45. We will be davening and boarding the buses. Students should bring water, lunch (if not on the hot lunch program), snacks (no candy), and sunblock.

As part of the living history program at the ranch, students will stake a claim and pan for gold, make butter, learn about rocks and minerals (science connection), make adobe bricks (missions!), learn to live like an early settler, play pioneer games, and more! Check it out at

<http://www.vtranch.com/gold-rush.php>

We can't wait!

(Please note that we will return by dismissal.)

Social Studies/Reading/Writing

Fourth graders are trying to strike it rich in our latest endeavor. . . The Gold Rush Game! Students enjoyed The Galleon Game at the start of the year so much that we decided to study the gold rush as an interactive simulation as well! Students are "prospectors" heading to the gold fields of San Francisco. This week we put them into 5 different mining companies. They came up with a name for their company and are learning all about the gold rush. Each day they complete a different task to earn points in the form of imaginary gold "nuggets." So far, they learned about the roles of James Marshall, John Sutter, Sam Brannen, and President James Polk, the overland route and the sea routes to the west, and how miners would stake their claim and use different tools for mining. They watched a zaption (an interactive video), examined a map and chose their route to the gold fields, and read a chapter from What was the Gold Rush? They held their own book club discussions about it. We are off to a pretty packed start! The backdrop of the game is a wonderful motivator when completing tasks that get at students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Ask them about it! The most fun part are the fates that are revealed throughout the game that simulate the highs and lows (mostly lows) that miners experienced as they tried to strike it rich. Wednesday's field trip to VT Ranch will really bring the content to life. We can't wait.



UPCOMING TESTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

- **SUN. MAY 22ND**: chapters 7-9 due, online post due (PIE)
- **WEDNESDAY MAY 25TH**: Lag Ba'Omer Curricular field trip to VT Ranch
- **SUN. MAY 29TH**: chapters 10-12 due, online post due (PIE)
- **MON. MAY 30TH**: NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

TUESDAY JUNE 7TH AT 6:30PM
FAMILY READ EVENT

MATH

Next week we will delve more deeply into chapter 13: Area and Perimeter.

In this chapter, students learn to find the area and perimeter of figures using **formulas**. (yay!) They will apply what they have learned to find the perimeter of a composite figure. They will also learn to find **one** side of a rectangle or square given its perimeter or area. (a fun challenge!)

Students will be required to use concepts such as finding unknown side lengths (vertical and horizontal line segments) of a figure, and to decompose a figure into squares and/or rectangles. In the final lesson, students will be required to apply their knowledge of area and perimeter to solve real-world problems.

As always, extra practice pages are posted on our website for your convenience. We also posted a video on area and perimeter on the [videos page of our website](#).

Remember that you can access a digital copy of the student book by utilizing the Think Central link on our website.

READING

We are glad that families continue to enjoy sweet PIE. Don't forget to help support your child by checking in with them and making sure that they are keeping up with the reading calendar we created. Posts are due by every Sunday night. We love seeing our parents on the forum! Thank you for your thoughtful posts! In addition, take this book as an opportunity to hear your child's oral reading. You will get a good sense of where they are as a reader! Enjoy engaging with them and discussing the ideas of family and friendship that are being brought up in the book. We can't wait to come together for our discussion circles very soon.

This week in Island of the Blue Dolphins, many spectacular events take place. Karana and Rontu discover Tall Rock and Black Cave, some distance from the island. The Aleuts return. One day, while Karana is working outside her cave, an Aleut girl wanders into the ravine. Though her spear is within easy reach and the Aleuts are her enemy, Karana does not attack the girl. The girl calls Rontu to her, and motions to say that Rontu is hers. Karana protests, and the girl acquiesces, motioning that Rontu now belongs to Karana. The girl speaks to Karana in a language that Karana can barely understand, but Karana does know the word *wintscha* ("pretty"), which the girl uses to describe Karana's cormorant skirt. Karana allows the girl, whose name is Tutok, to try on the skirt, but at the same time is mistrustful because Tutok is an Aleut. Soon Tutok leaves, and Karana, fearing that she will return with the Aleut hunters, gathers her things and prepares to leave. When Karana returns, she knows someone has been at her cave. She looks fearfully around, not daring to enter. All she finds is a necklace of beautiful black rocks left at the entrance of the cave. Perhaps you want to start a conversation with your child about Karana and Tutok's relationship, why Karana didn't have to fight to keep Rontu, how the plot has changed, or listen to some of their predictions about what they think will happen next. More will be revealed next week!