

# JANUARY

## What's happening in ELA!

What makes someone a hero? This was the essential question for module 4. Students read about larger than life heroes and real life heroes. Two of our stories were fictional stories and we focused on finding the theme and character traits. In the play Perseus and the fall of Medusa we also talked about the elements of drama. After reading Prince Charming Misplaces his Bride, the students wrote the next chapter of the book. They created their own ending based on the plot of the story. They focused on using narrative elements as they wrote. In our non-fiction story, Smokejumpers to the Rescue, we focused on how text and graphic features help us better understand the text, as well as how text structure helps us store the information we read in our brain.



## A Month of STEM

Over the four to five weeks, students have learned several strategies to multiply both single digit numbers (by up to four digit numbers) as well as double digit number by double digit numbers. Many students prefer the partial product strategy over the area model, but both work perfectly!

We then used those skills to work on converting units of measurement from larger units to smaller units (since multiplication is needed in this real world strategy). This concept was more challenging as students had to understand that one unit of measurement can be identified in several different ways (ie: a gallon is 4 quarts, but a gallon can also be 8 pints, etc.)

## Important Notes:

- Please continue to make sure computers are charged every night.
- Check with your child to make sure that they have a working pair of earbuds/headphones
- With winter temperatures here, please make sure your children come to school with warm gear!



## COMING UP!

- 1/26 CARES Assembly
- 2/8 ERD
- 2/19 - 2/23 February Vacation