



April 3, 2017

Dear Fourth Graders,

On April 24, 1828, Webster's Dictionary was first published. There were 2,500 copies printed at \$20 for two volumes. At first the set sold poorly, but when he lowered the price to \$15, its sales improved, and by 1836 that edition was completely sold out. Each year, a number of new words are added to Webster's dictionary. Words that were added last year, in 2014 were "hashtag" and "selfie".

**In your letter, tell some words you think should be added to the dictionary and why?**

April 18th is "National Pet Owners Day." National Pet Day began in 2005 as a way to raise awareness for shelter pets all across the country. The "National Pet Day" website encourages everyone to get involved to reduce the number of adoptable pets that die in shelters each day. Even for those who cannot adopt a pet, there are other ways to help by cleaning cages at local shelters and donating money to help care for and feed shelter pets. **In your letter, tell me if you think it's okay for people to own wild animals as pets? Why or why not? What might happen if they are unable to care for the pet?**

On April 25, 1452, artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born. He created plans for a number of flying machines, including a four-man helicopter. Design your own type of flying machine. Be sure to explain how your machine works and include a sketch. **In your letter, design your own type of flying machine. Be sure to explain how your machine works. On the back, include a sketch.**

Please continue to include **5 complete sentences** in each paragraph. Don't forget to include the 5 parts of a letter: the date, greeting, body, closing and signature. Please remember to sign your name in cursive at the end!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cozzi