



First Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders

December 5 → Holiday Light Show Field Trip

December 5 → PTA meeting at 6:00 pm

December 13 → PS 377 Winter Concert @ 4:30

December 22 - Pajama day

December 25- January 1 → School is closed for Winter Recess

Leader in Me

This month we will focus on Habit 3: Put First Things First. Within this habit we will discuss the importance of doing our work first before we play. We will also discuss the importance of staying focused and minimizing the distractions around us. We will be reading the book, *The Empty Pot* by Demi. Create a light display- indicating what their big rock is (Family, Friends, Health, Pets, etc)

Fresh Look at Phonics

Unit 2: In this unit, your child will learn about words that contain short vowels with blends and digraphs. This month we will focus on digraphs. Digraphs are two letters that come together, but make one sound. They will also learn to read words with the digraphs **sh, th, ch, tch, wh, ng and nk**, such as **shop, that, match, when, king and sink**.

Readers Workshop

We will be continuing our current unit: Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction. This unit is all about exposing students to books that teach them something. They will learn, learn, learn! We will also be teaching comprehension strategies such as previewing the text, predicting, noticing text structure and synthesizing information from multiple sources. We will also focus on different text features (heading, caption, label, table of contents, glossary, etc.) in nonfiction books that help us become experts on different topics. We will continue to work on our decoding skills and understanding new vocabulary. Throughout this unit they will also work to develop their fluency skills. During this unit we will listen to different books that will teach us about different holidays that are celebrated in December around the world.

Writers Workshop

This month, we will continue to work on writing *Nonfiction Chapter Books*. During this writing unit, students will write lots of information books about a variety of topics. Through their writing, students will share all they know about topics such as animals, family, games, food, etc. While sharing all they know across pages, students will be encouraged to work on the editing and revising portion of the writing process. They will be checking for capitalization and punctuation, making sure they have spacing between words, and looking closely at spelling.

They will also be making sure to reread their writing to see that it makes sense and revising by adding in words that are missing or taking anything out that doesn't fit. As we continue writing through this unit we are encouraging students to write more and more on each page. We want to move on from one sentence per page, to having 2-3 sentences per page.

Math

This month we will continue Module 2. We will be introduced to place values of tens and ones. Students will identify how many tens and ones are in teen numbers. During this unit we will be learning numbers 11-20. Students will be able to identify teen numbers as one ten and some ones. For example, the number 14 has one ten and 4 ones. Within this unit we will also be adding and subtracting within 20. We will learn to use the strategy "making a ten" by grouping 10 objects together to help add. Students will also use a tens frame, a number bond and pictures to help solve their work. Please continue to work on building fluency with addition and subtraction facts up to 10. These facts are important in supporting independence with adding higher numbers. We will continue to practice on word problems both addition and subtraction. Remember to have students circle numbers in their problem and underline keywords.

Social Studies

We will continue our unit: Families, Now and Long Ago. We will continue to discuss how families grow and change over time. We will study what life was like in the past compared to today, including changes in transportation, technology and communication. We will compare and contrast the lives of children long ago and today by looking at toys, games, clothing, and school. We will learn how pictures and artifacts help us to hold on to special memories that can later be used by others to learn about our past.

Science

Science: Engineers work to figure out the question- How do we design a sound source to go with a puppet show scene? They think deeply about sound, sound sources, and vibration and engage in the design cycle to create sound sources that will help the puppet-theater company solve part of it's problem. They observe, both through reading and firsthand experiences, that every sound is caused by a vibration and that when they hear a sound, it is because some part of the sound source is vibrating. BY the end of the chapter, students share their final solutions for the puppet-theater company, explaining how their scenes and sound sources work, based on the light and sound design goals.

- If your scientist would like a sneak peak of the books ahead, visit: learning.amplify.com.
- Username: nycdoe-es-student Password: AmplifyNumber1

Home Connection

Reading: When reading with your child, have conversations about the book.

- Stop throughout the book and ask what has already happened.
- Stop on different vocabulary words and use the text (the words and the pictures to find out what the word means)
- After reading, ask your child to retell what happened. (Who the characters were, what the problem was and what the solution was)
- Continue to have your children use Raz Kids at home. Have them record themselves reading and listen back to it and see if they can hear some of their own mistakes.

Math: Give your child a story problem to solve within 20 (addition or subtraction)

- Encourage them to use different strategies to solve (tens frame, number line, number bond and a diagram). Ask your child how they got their answer (What did you do? How did you get your answer?).
- Have your child compare their answers from the different strategies that they used.
- **Math Projects** → As you are on your drive/walk home from school count different objects that you see (black cars and red cars) and create numer stories that go along with what you saw. How many more red cars were there than black cars? How many cars did we see all together?

