



First Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders

January 2 → Winter Recess End - Return to school

January 15 → No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18 → Parent Workshop 6:00 pm on zoom: Social Emotional support

Leader in Me

This month we will be focusing on Habit 4 - Think Win, Win. We will be reading the book, *The Sandwich Swap* by Queen Rania Abullah.

- I can problem solve when an issue comes up with another person.
- I think of what other people want, not just what I want.
- I am kind to others and think of ways to make others happy.

Fresh Look at Phonics

In this unit, we will learn about words that contain long vowels spelled with a final e. We will learn to read words with the spelling patterns of **a_e**, **i_e**, **o_e**, **u_e** and **e_e**, such as **bake**, **time**, **pole**, **cube** and **these**.

While you are at home reading see if you can find words with the silent e.

Readers Workshop

This month, we will begin our next reading unit: Readers Get to Know Their Characters. This unit uses children's natural inclination towards imitation and role-playing by inviting them to do this same sort of pretending with their characters. It focuses on comprehension skills such as inferring, activating prior knowledge, and synthesizing deeper understandings of characters by making connections and empathizing with a characters situations, experiences, and relationships. Children will be using their books to help them figure out how to act like the characters in those books. And, in the process of acting out their books, by being the characters in those books, readers will also come to know the characters (and perhaps themselves) better.

Writers Workshop

We will begin our next writing unit: *Writing Reviews*. In this unit, students will be reviewing and judging collections and make choices about which items are the best and why. Students will write reviews on toys, restaurants, video games, etc.! In bend two, children will be moving into book reviews to tell others their opinions about books that they have been reading, both at home and in school. While writing their reviews, students will state their opinion, and give at least TWO reasons as to why ti is the best and why.

Math

This month we will continue our Module 2 unit. Students will continue to problem solve by adding and subtracting numbers within 20. We will continue to work on the strategy "making a ten" and learn a new strategy "take from ten"

$$15 - 8 =$$
$$15 - 8 = 7$$

Students will also be learning place value of ones and tens. Teen numbers have one ten and some ones. For example, the number 15 has one ten and 5 ones. We will also begin Module 3. In this module we will use indirect comparisons of objects. They will compare the length of one object to one or two other objects. Students will be using the language longer than, shorter than or the same length at.

Social Studies

We will continue our Social Studies unit called, *Families Now, and Long Ago*. Within this unit we will continue to learn about different families. This time we will discuss how families lived long ago and compare it to how families live now. We will discuss how school, transportation and technology has changed over the years.

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 its 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. The purpose of this chapter is for students to figure out that sound originates from a vibrating material and to reflect on the new understanding about light and sound they have developed across the unit.

Home Connection

Math Connections:

- Practice counting to 100.
- Practice addition and subtraction fluency within 10.
- Practice addition and subtraction within 20

Literacy Connections

- Talk about different topics that you know all about (animals, games, toys, food, etc.)
- When your out, read different signs and have your child point out words that have the silent e, or blends and digraphs.
- Read different nonfiction books at home and discuss text features that you see in the text.

