



## 3/4/5 Newsletter

### Important Reminders

December 5: PTA meeting at 6:00 pm  
 December 11: Student leaders – visit at assisted living for caroling  
 December 13: PS 377 Concert  
     Pre-K & K: 4:00  
     Gr. 1 & 2 4:30  
     Grade 3-5 5:00  
 December 20: Peer Mediators – visit at assisted living for caroling  
 December 25- January 1: School is closed for Winter Recess

### Benchmark Phonics

In Phonics, we will be finishing Unit 1 and starting Unit 2. In Unit 2, your child will learn about words with closed syllables, as in napkin, and open syllables, as in radio. Your child will also review other types of syllables, including final stable syllables.

### Teachers College Writers Workshop

Students have been working on Unit 2: *The Art of Information Writing*. Students have begun to write about topics that they feel they are an expert on and can inform others about. Students will learn how to write a proper introduction, organize information, and include text features that help their readers.

Students will also be taught many ways to elaborate on their topics, such as learning to include facts, definitions, and other important details. Students will wrap up this unit by creating their own nonfiction books and present them to their classmates!

### Math

This month we will continue and wrap up our Module 3 unit on multiplication and move onto Module 4. This unit is all about multiplication and area. We will be learning how to find the area of a closed array where there are boxes inside of the array to a closed array where they use the length and width to find the area of a rectangle or square.

### Teachers College Readers Workshop

We have continued working through our second reading unit titled: *Reading to Learn: Grasping Main Ideas and Text Structures*. This unit aims to get students to read non-fiction books with a focus on understanding what the main idea of the text is mostly about.

The great thing about this unit is that it goes hand and hand with our writing unit! We have been working on our very own non-fiction texts. Therefore diving into nonfiction texts will help us as readers learn moves authors are making to try out in our writing pieces!

### Leader in Me

#### Habit 3: Put First Things First



### Social Studies

We will continue our work in world geography. Students have examined a variety of geographic tools to develop an understanding of the meaning of geography and its purposes. Students will start to identify and explain how people use natural resources in order to meet their needs. Also, they will identify and discuss the elements of culture in a world community, then compare and contrast a culture to personal experience.

### Science

We are wildlife biologists will investigate how organisms get their traits. This is an unspoken question that underlies things many of us wonder about beginning at an early age, such as *Why does my sibling have curly hair whereas mine is straight? How come I am shorter than others in my family? Why is my sister a faster runner than I am?* In the *Inheritance and Traits: Variation in Wolves* unit, students dive deep into exploring patterns in the traits of organisms to answer the question of how those traits come to be.

Students assume the role of wildlife biologists helping a class of students near the fictional Graystone National Park to solve the mystery of Wolf 44—a wolf they have observed to be different from the rest of its pack, which serves as the anchor phenomenon for the unit. As wildlife biologists, students work to figure out how Wolf 44 got its traits.

### Home Connection

#### **Help your child in math!**

- Have your child continue to practice their math multiplication flash cards!

#### **Build literacy skills through simple activities at home and in the car.**

- Read every night!
- Practice sight words each night by creating fun and interactive games. (look for words in the newspaper/magazines; matching game, etc.)
- Ask your child about books they are reading at home. Ask them about the characters, problem, and solution.
- Have your child build their reading stamina by building on time spent reading.

