



First Grade Newsletter

Important Reminder

March 29 & April 1: School closed Easter break

April 10: School closed Eid at Fitr

April 11: Grade 1 trip to Alley Pond Park

April 22-30: School Closed for Spring Break

Leader in Me

This month's habit is habit 7; Sharpen the Saw. We will be reading Jabarii Jumps. Students will learn about taking care of their body, eating healthy and the importance of exercising.

Fresh Look at Phonics

In our next phonics unit we will be learning all about diphthongs. Diphthongs are similar to vowel teams. Two vowels are coming together to make one sound. We will be learning diphthong /ou/ and /oi/. We will also begin to learn about complex vowel sounds (oo, oi, and aw).

Readers Workshop

This month we will continue our reading unit, "Readers Have Big Jobs to Do!" The main goal of this unit is for us to take on important jobs a reader needs to do. They have strategies to be in charge of their own reading, to set an agenda and to get through the hard parts all by themselves. They will move past the impulse to say "Help Me!" when faced with a tricky word and to get through the hard parts by themselves. They will learn to balance between word solving and meaning making so that their experiences with texts are well-rounded and thoughtful, efficient, and meaningful.

Writers Workshop

In our writing workshop students will continue to work on their opinion writing. In this unit, students will be writing their opinion and defending their opinion (Which is the best and why? etc.) Students will learn to write their judgements and to organize their reasons and supply supporting details for those reasons. Eventually, students will use their skills at writing to make and defend judgements to write reviews of all sorts - restaurant reviews, movie reviews, book reviews, etc.)

Math

This month we will continue working on Module 4. Throughout this module we will be adding and subtracting within 40. We will continue to explore adding 1 more, 10 more and subtracting 1 less and 10 less. We will also begin to see addition problems like $25 + 7 = \underline{\quad}$. Many students will begin to notice that when adding we can add out tens together and our ones together to get the total. We will learn more strategies to help us solve addition and subtraction within 40. Students use their knowledge of tens and ones to explore decompositions of the values of coins. The module concludes with fun fluency festivities to celebrate a year's worth of learning. We will continue to work on problem solving and explaining our thinking when we solve a problem.

Social Studies

Our next social studies unit is Unit 3: The Community. In this unit we will explore and discover what is a community? We will discuss community helpers, rules and laws that citizens need to follow and how we can protect our communities.

Science

Why doesn't the sky always look the same? As sky scientists, students explain why a boy living in a nearby place sees different things in the sky than his grandma who lives in a faraway place. Students record, organize, and analyze observations of the sun and other sky objects as they look for patterns and make sense of the cycle of daytime and nighttime.

Home Connection

- When reading with your children every night, ask them the following questions:
 - What is the setting of the story? How do you know?
 - Who are the characters? How did the character's feelings change from the beginning of the book to the end of the book?
 - What was the problem? How was the problem solved?
 - For all these questions have your child state how they know where answer and where did they find their answer for text evidence.
- Help your child identify any number from 0 to 120. If you see numbers when you are out shopping, eating at a restaurant, etc., ask them the following:
 - What number is this?
 - How many tens does it have?
 - How many ones does it have?
 - When adding and subtracting encourage your child to use tens and ones as a more efficient method of counting. Also, practice counting by tens and ones.
- You can support our writing work at home by sharing opinions about movies, shows, toys and even dinner. Encourage your child to not just say their favorite or give their opinion but to support with many reasons and details. You can also play "This or That" and "Would You Rather" to encourage them to articulate their opinion and reasons. These conversations will help your child organize and express their ideas which helps set them up to write!
- With your child, look for words with r-controlled vowels, complex vowel /ô/, and diphthongs in books, signs, magazine covers, etc. Keep a notebook of words you discover. Challenge your child to identify objects in your home or other locations that have r-controlled vowels, complex vowel /ô/, or diphthongs. For example, "I spy a coin."