

FEBRUARY

First Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders

- **February 7** - World Read Aloud Day
- **February 9** - 100th Day of School
- **February 12 -16:** Respect for All Week (more information to follow)
- **February 19 - 23:** School Closed

Leader in Me

This month we will continue to learn about Habit 5 - Seek First to Understand., then to be understood. We will read the book *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. We will discuss the importance of listening to others and understanding how other people feel.

Fresh Look at Phonics

In this unit, we will learn about words that contain long vowels. We will learn to read words with the long a, i, o, u and e sounds, such as day, rain, fly, high, go, boat, show, few, cue, team, we and seen. For each week's lesson we will read a book that focuses on the lessons skills. We will practice using text evidence to answer questions about the text.

Readers Workshop

This month, we will continue working on "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

Students will continue to work on the small moment writing. In this unit, students think about something that has happened to them (i.e, a family vacation, going to the park, playing at recess, losing a tooth, etc). Students will share only a small moment. In school we call this a "watermelon seed" moment. Students will continue to use transition words (first, next, then and last) as well as dialogue and feelings in their writing. We will continue to encourage students to write multiple sentences across pages and to use more details.

Math

In Module 3, topic A students 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 to compare different objects.

Topic B takes longer than and shorter than to a new level of precision by introducing the idea of a length unit.

Centimeter cubes are laid alongside the length of an object as students learn that the total number of cubes laid end to end with no gaps or overlaps represents the length of that object.

Topic C explores the usefulness of measuring with similar units. Students measure the same objects from Topic B using two different non-standard units, toothpicks and small paper clips, simultaneously to measure one object and answer the question, "Why do we measure with same-sized length units?"

Topic D closes the module as students represent and interpret data (1.MD.4). They collect data about their classmates and sort that information into three categories. Using same-sized pictures on squares, students represent this sorted data so that it can be easily compared and described. Students interpret information presented in the graphs by first determining the number of data points in a given category, for example, "How many students like carrots the best?" Then, students combine categories, for example, "How many total students like carrots or broccoli the best?"

Social Studies

This month in Social Studies we will be studying Black History Month. We will learn about many different African Americans who had a great impact on our country. Some of the people we will learn about are: Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, Barack Obama, etc. We will be reading Biographies and Autobiographies, as well as watching videos to learn more.

Science

Why doesn't the sky always look the same? As sky scientist, 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

- Solving Word Problems – Give your child a word problem within 20 (Addition and Subtraction). Ask them to solve it as many ways as they can. Ask them to explain what they did to solve the problem.
- Help Develop Fluency within 20 – Use index cards to make addition and subtraction flash cards within 10. The more students have practice with this and the more confident they are with answering quickly, it will benefit them with adding and subtracting within 100.
- When reading with your children every night, ask them the following questions:
 - What is the setting of the story? (Where and When does it take place?)
 - 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?
- Phonics: With your child, look for words with long vowels 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 contain long vowels. For example "I spy soap."

