



## Kindergarten Newsletter

### Important Reminders

April 1st: School Closed for Easter Break

April 10th: Schools Closed: EID-al-Fitr

April 15<sup>th</sup>: NYSESLAT speaking begins through May 24<sup>th</sup>

April 22-30<sup>th</sup>: SCHOOL CLOSED: Spring Break

### **Leader in Me**

This month is Habit 7 Sharpen the Saw (Balance is best). The book we will be reading is Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late. This book lends itself to take care of our bodies by eating right, exercising, and getting enough sleep. It also highlights how to become a better person.

### **TC Phonics:**

During the month of April, students will be focusing on short vowels, long vowels, and final e. Students will engage in discussion about the difference between a short and a long vowel. Students will read decodable texts, as well as, participate in dictated writing while using short/long vowel words, as well as, words with final e.

### **Math**

During the month of April, the students will continue to count, write and represent numbers 11-20 in terms of place value. We will be using a 100 chart to help with their fluency counting to 100.

We will continue to review addition and subtraction, so that the students can distinguish if they should add or subtract by looking at the symbols (plus or minus) in the number sentence. We will continue to listen to word problems (addition and subtraction) to draw diagrams, use ten frames or use manipulatives to show how to solve the problem.

### **Teachers College Reading Workshop**

We will be finishing up our reading unit 4 of "Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles". Children will continue to learn more deeply how to use strategies to read tricky words, think about what is happening in their texts, reread in different ways, talk about their books and check their reading. This unit will focus more on the children checking their understanding of books and monitoring their reading. This unit focuses on boosting reading independence!

We will begin our reading unit called, *Growing Expertise in Little Books*. Each day we are becoming experts on different nonfiction topics. Students will continue to stop, think, and ask questions about the books we are reading. We will continue to work on retelling books and sharing information we have learned. Retelling information from books shows that a student understands what they are reading.

## Teachers College Writers Workshop

We are continuing our writing unit, called How-to-Books. Writers not only use writing to tell stories, but they also use writing to teach others how to do stuff. Children will be writing all about things they know (how to make chocolate milk, how to ride a bike, etc.) This will be a great unit for us to really get to know each student even more and find out about the things that they really like to do.

We will encourage students to write new books each and every day. They will continue to try their best to stretch out words and write down as many sounds as they can hear. We will also continue to encourage our students to use more and more details in their pictures.

## Science

Why are the playgrounds at two school's different temperatures? Why does one playground flood? The students at Woodland and Carver elementary schools are not comfortable outside during their recess time. The Carver students are too cold in the morning, and the Woodland students are too hot in the afternoon. The school principals need student weather scientists to help them explain the difference in playground temperatures.

Students gather data from models of the sun and of Earth's surface and observe their own playgrounds to figure out how sunlight causes changes in the temperature of different surfaces. Students then use models to figure out why Woodland's playground sometimes floods.

## Home Connection

**Reading:** Encourage your child to retell what he/she has read. If they are reading a story, encourage them to tell who the characters are, where the story takes place, and what is happening. If they are reading a nonfiction book, ask them what the book is all about and what they learned from it.

**Math:** Practice counting out loud from 10 – 20 with your child.

**Play Three-Four-Handed Teens:** Play this game to show your child that teen numbers are made up of 1 ten and some ones. Hold up all 10 of your fingers. Then, have your child hold up some fingers as well. Together, all these fingers represent a teen number. For instance, if your child is holding up three fingers, and you're holding up all your fingers, then the number is 13.

**Writing/Science:** Learn about a favorite animal! Pick an animal your child loves and learn about it. Read about it, find YouTube videos, see it at a zoo or farm, or look at pictures online. Then help your child create a collage of what he/she learned about that animal using pictures and texts.

**\*This activity will greatly help your child with our next writing unit.**

