



## First Grade Newsletter

### Important Reminders

- **November 2:** Half day of school for Parent Teacher Conferences...Dismissal 11:30
- **November 7:** School closed- Election day
- **November 10:** Veterans day- wear red, white and blue
- **November 13 & 14:** Picture Day
- **November 23 & 24:** School closed- Thanksgiving

### Leader in Me

This month we will focus on Habit 1 - Be Proactive. We will read the book "The Carrot Seed." We are going to discuss ways that we can be proactive in school and the importance of following directions the first time.

### Fresh Look at Phonics

Unit 2: In this unit, your child will learn about words that contain short vowels with blends and digraphs. He or she will learn to read words with l-blends, s-blends, and r-blends such as **flag**, **smell**, and **trip**. They will also learn to read words with the digraphs **sh**, **th**, **ch**, **tch**, **wh**, **ng** and **nk**, such as **shop**, **that**, **match**, **when**, **king** and **sink**.

### Readers Workshop

We will begin our current unit: Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction. This unit is all about exposing students to books that teach them something. They will learn, learn, learn! We will also be teaching comprehension strategies such as previewing the text, predicting, noticing text structure and synthesizing information from multiple sources. We will continue to work on our decoding skills and understanding new vocabulary. Throughout this unit they will also work to develop their fluency skills.

During this unit we will listen to different books that will teach us about different holidays that are celebrated in December around the world.

### Writers Workshop

Our next writing unit is called *Nonfiction Chapter Books*. It will go hand in hand with our reading unit. During this writing unit the students will write lots of information books about lots of different topics. We will begin with instruction in how to make a basic type of information book and end with students creating multiple information chapter books filled with elaboration, interesting text features, and pictures that teach. We will use the study of mentor authors to learn how to structure our texts and how, when, and where to use some text features. We will continue to build our writing stamina and independence, while using the writing process to guide us.

During this unit students love to write all about topics they know a lot about (animal, family, games, food, etc.)

### Math

We will continue working on addition and subtraction within 10 and use different strategies to help us solve. We encourage children to use a strategy that works best for them when they are solving. Students are beginning to explain their thinking to our partners and make connections related to the problem. We will be wrapping up Module 1 this month and having an end of module assessment. We will begin Module 2.

Module 2 serves as a bridge from students' prior work with problem solving within 10 to work within 20 as students begin to solve addition and subtraction problems involving teen numbers. Students go beyond the Level 2 strategies of counting on and counting back as they learn Level 3 strategies informally called "make ten" or "take from ten."

### Social Studies

**Social Studies:** This month we will continue our families unit and discuss our families and families in our class. We will begin Unit 2: Families, Now and Long Ago. We will discuss how families grow and change over time. We will compare and contrast the lives of children long ago and today by looking at toys, games, clothing, and school. We will learn how pictures and artifacts help us to hold on to special memories that can later be used by others to learn about our past.

**Science:** Your children will be marine biologists and will be investigating what animals need to survive. Specifically, scientists will be studying Spruce the Sea Turtle and what will happen to her as she is released back into the ocean from the aquarium. Your children will be learning how Spruce and other sea animals defend themselves in their given habitats. Students will be buzzing with excitement with the hands on experiences to come!

### Home Connection

**Math Connections:** Use an empty egg carton as a counting tool to practice addition and subtraction skills up to 10. Simply place objects in the slots, and use the empty slots to count up to/from 10.

**Literacy Connections:**

Be an Example! Children learn by example, so let your child see you read whether it be a book, newspaper, cookbook, etc.

Don't immediately tell an unknown word to your child! Instead, ask them to: sound out the word, break the word into parts, or try a different vowel sound (long/short).

Help your child with their personal goal at home - ask them how they are doing reaching their goal, and how they can get better.

Discuss family traditions that your family has. Show them pictures, talk about them, etc.

