



First Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders/Dates

March 1: Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

March 4, 5: Spring pictures

March 7: Parent teacher conferences-
Half day of school; Dismissal is at 11:30

March 11-14: Computer Science for All week

March 15: NO SCHOOL for students at PS 377

March 18 - Field Trip

March 20: Grade 5 Bake Sale

March 22: Career Day March 25- 28 Literacy Week

March 26: Vocabulary show

March 29: School closed for Good Friday

April 1: School Closed

Leader in Me

This month we will focus on Habit 6: Synergizing. This means we work together to accomplish our goals. "Working together is better!" We will be reading the story Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathman. We will discuss the importance of working together and the importance of listening to others.

Readers Workshop

Our next unit is Readers Have Big Jobs to do. In this unit children learn that they are ready to take on big and important jobs as a reader to develop independence and to take charge of their own reading. This unit sets children up to be able to read increasingly complex texts with accuracy, comprehension, and fluency, all of which require the development of great problem solving skills. Children will learn to stop as soon as they encounter difficulty, draw from the strategies they've been accumulating to solve a problem, and then check to see that they got it right.

The teacher will focus on strengthening and expanding students' word-solving strategies, adding more tools to their toolkits, and reminding students to draw from multiple sources of information in their problem solving. Children will learn how to use strategies in higher level texts, with longer, more complex words, maintaining meaning across large parts of text as well as strategies for developing an understanding of new vocabulary words.

Fresh Look at Phonics

In Unit 5 your child will learn about words with r-controlled vowels **ar, er, ir, ur, or, ore, oar, are, air,** and **ear**. We call these "Bossy R" words They will learn to read words with short and long **oo** such as spoon, could, flew, glue, and tune. They will learn to read words with diphthongs **ou, ow, oi, oy** and words with complex vowels such as **au, aw, alk, alt,** and **all**.

Writers Workshop

The students have transitioned from narrative writing to writing opinions and reviews. 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. We will start off by giving students a this or that scenario.

They will have to defend one and give us their reasons why. An example might be: Do you like ice cream or chips better? Why?) 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

In this this month's unit we will be working on Module 4. Students will be able to recognize and understand place value of tens and ones. Students will be able to identify how many tens and ones are in numbers within 40. Within this unit we will begin to add and subtract within 40. Students will also learn to represent 10 more and 10 less than a number. Please practice counting by 10's and and by 1's in helping understanding adding two digit numbers.

We will also continue to work on solving word problems. When solving word problems we: write a number sentence, use at least two strategies to show our thinking, write a statement and write a sentence to explain our thinking.

Social Studies

This month in social studies we will learn all about Women's History Month and the impact that many different females had in the world.

We will also continue our unit on learning about the past and the present and how things have changed over time.

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:
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 - 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?
- 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?
- Help Develop Fluency within 20 – Use index cards to make addition and subtraction flash cards within 20. 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.
- 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."