



## Third Grade Newsletter

### Important Dates

- February 2: Valentine Candygram money is due
- February 6: Grade 5 Bake Sale for Grades K-5
- February 7: World Read Aloud day & 6:00 pm parent workshop on Power of Gratitude
- February 8: ESL parent workshop & 5:00 Aladdin show
- February 9: 100<sup>th</sup> day of school & 5:00 Aladdin show
- February 12-16: Respect for All week
- February 27: Social Emotional parent workshop at 8:30 am
- February 29: Grades 3-5 Black History month speaking contest

### Phonics

In Phonics, we are continuing with Unit 2. In Unit 2, your child will learn about words with closed syllables, as in napkin, and open syllables, as in radio. Your child will also review other types of syllables, including final stable syllables, as in riddle and motion; vowel team syllables, as in season and rainbow; r-controlled vowel syllables, as in garden and winter; final e syllables, as in hopeful and invite; and unaccented final syllables, as in gallon and captain.

### Leader in Me

This month we will focus on Habit 5, Seek First to Understand then to be understood. We will be reading the story *Last Stop on Market Street* to support us in this habit.



### Reading

We will continue with our Character Studies unit. From a structural standpoint this unit first engages children, inviting them to think more deeply about things that are somewhat familiar. Then it puts them in new territory and challenges them to rise to new thinking.

Finally, it positions them to apply what they have learned to new situations. We will begin the powerful read aloud *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo! We cannot wait!

### Writing

The third writing unit is titled: Changing the World. Throughout the course of this unit, the students will come to see that their passionate opinions, and their bold declarations, are strengthened by thoughtful reasoning and evidence. They will grow more sophisticated in considering the audience and realizing that they can tailor their opinions to be most convincing to particular audiences. And they will come to see the power in language and word choice as they make careful decisions about how to write with power.

### Math

In mathematics we have jumped into module 5 on fractions! This is very exciting!! This unit focuses on partitioning a whole into equal parts, learning about unit fractions and the relationship to the whole, comparing unit fractions and specifying the whole. A unit fraction is when the numerator (the top number) is one. This unit will teach students how to place fractions on a number line, being able to find equivalent fractions, compare, and order fractions. This will be a whole new way of thinking about numbers that are less than one whole!

### Social Studies

Students will also be completing a research project for Black History Month. They will do research and complete a banner on this person. They will then share what they learned to the class.



### Science

We as wildlife biologists will investigate how organisms get their traits. This is an unspoken question that underlies things many of us wonder about beginning at an early age, such as “Why does my sibling have curly hair whereas mine is straight?” How come I am shorter than others in my family? Why is my sister a faster runner than I am? In the *Inheritance and Traits: Variation in Wolves* unit, students dive deep into exploring patterns in the traits of organisms to answer the question of how those traits come to be.

Students assume the role of wildlife biologists helping a class of students near the fictional Graystone National Park to solve the mystery of Wolf 44—a wolf they have observed to be different from the rest of its pack, which serves as the anchor phenomenon for the unit. As wildlife biologists, students work to figure out how Wolf 44 got its traits.

### Home Connection

- **Help your child talk about the books they are reading and to give text evidence.**
  - Have your child pick a character in their books and talk to you about what they are like. Have them prove it to you by finding text evidence in their books!
- **Help your child explore fractions**
  - Have your child think about fractions while cooking! Make a cake together and talk about the different measurements. Order a pizza pie and talk about what fraction of the pizza is left over.
- **Build literacy skills through simple activities at home and in the car.**
  - Read every night!
  - Practice sight words each night by creating fun and interactive games. (Look for words in the newspaper/magazines; matching game, etc.)
  - Ask your child about books they are reading at home. Ask them about the characters, problem, and solution.
  - Have your child build their reading stamina by building on time spent reading.