



316's Class Newsletter

Important Dates

- ★ March 29 & April 1: School closed Easter break
- ★ April 3: Our Class Field Trip
- ★ April 10: School closed Eid at Fitr
- ★ April 11 & 12: NYS ELA test for grades 3-5
- ★ April 15: NYSESLAT speaking begins through May 24
- ★ April 22-30: School Closed
- ★ May 7 & 8: NYS Math test for grades 3-5

Benchmark Phonics

This month, your child will learn about prefixes, suffixes, and other word study skills. Your child will learn about words that have the inflectional endings -ed and -ing along with spelling changes, such as tried and luckily; as well as irregular plurals, such as children, shelves, and fish. Your child will also learn words with the prefixes dis-, un-, pre-, im-, non-, sub-, and others, as in discover, unknown, and submarine; and the suffixes, -er, -or, -able, -ful, and others, as in teacher, readable, and useful; as well as related words, such as true, truly, and untrue.

Leader in Me



Readers Workshop

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!

Math

What have we learned this year? This is exactly what we will be focusing on during math this month! Getting ourselves prepared to take the NYS mathematics test. We will be reviewing all concepts, strategies, and material taught and prepare your children to take this exam.

Writing Workshop

This month when our big ELA State Test is behind us we will begin to take a nonfiction approach to writing as well. In this unit we will be writing about research. This lesson goes hand and hand with our reading workshop! Across this writing unit, then, students will collaborate to write club books about each animal they research, and then they'll write a club book that captures the ideas they grow in Bend III of that reading unit.

Science

What is the origin of the traits of Wolf 44—a wolf that appears to be different from the rest of its pack? Students play the role of wildlife biologists working in Graystone National Park. They study two wolf packs and are challenged to figure out why Wolf 44, an adopted wolf, has certain traits. Students observe variation between and within different species, investigate inherited traits and those that result from the environment, and explain how Wolf 44 acquired certain traits.

Home Connection

- ★ Children should be able to build their reading stamina each day – how long they can sit with a book and be engaged. You can help by modeling this at home with your own books. Set aside time to talk about your reading and ask your child about their reading. When they are telling you about their book, ask them to show you “text evidence”.... How they know they found the problem and solution on which pages.
- ★ In math, continue to have your child practice multiplication and division with their flashcards. Moving into fractions, make some time for fun. Turn a paper plate into fractions with different denominators, or sections of the plates. Have a fraction picnic—more details to come from your teachers on this! Use a real pizza pie to help their understanding of fractions.