

January 5, 2018

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed some much needed time off with your friends and family. The cold weather cut some of our outdoor plans out but just being home with the family was such a nice treat. Here are some of the things we will be working on in the next few weeks.

We are moving into the next unit of study in reading. This unit is called Fluency, Phonics and Comprehension. This unit will help to strengthen readers' abilities to monitor their reading and take action when they come across problems. The students will develop efficient strategies for word solving while maintaining comprehension in longer texts. Students will be reading a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts that are of high interest to them. The children will continue to "book shop" as a way to learn about finding "just right" books for their individual levels. I am looking forward to this next unit as the children have made a lot of progress in their reading abilities so far this year. Next week I will be out of the classroom one day to administer the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessment with each student in the class. I am eager to see the gains they have made!

This month, and possibly into next, we will be working on an integrated writing/science unit on animals. Students will learn about several different classes of animals. They will be able to identify characteristics animals have that make them part of a certain classification. In addition, students will learn how to conduct a research project focusing on the question, "How do animals use their body parts in different ways to help them survive?" Students will answer this question using a source called, What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? by, Steven Jenkins. This research project will involve using a text to find answers to questions, as well as learning how to organize and write a research paper. Students will learn how to take notes, have group discussions and identify important information within a text to answer the focus question.

We are moving into unit 4 in math next week. I will send home the family newsletter explaining the unit, but as an overview students will identify and order numbers on the number line to 120, count forward and backward by 1's, 5's and 10's, add and subtract while solving story problems using the number line and finally, measure, order and compare height in inches.

In Foundations we are mid way through unit 7. Students have learned the "nk" and "ng" welded sounds. We will continue to practice reading and writing words with these welded sounds in them. Students will continue to add trick words to the word wall as well.

A few reminders:

- January 15-16th are in service days. School is not in session.
- February Break- Feb 19th-23rd
- Clorox wipes and tissues are always welcome!!

Have a restful, warm weekend!
Take Care,