

Room 18 Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter Vol. 2

Weeks of October 2 – October 16, 2017

"Satisfaction of one's curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life."

– Linus Pauling, chemist, educator, Nobel Peace Prize winner

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- **Every Tuesday** – Our Library day – return your library books
- **Thursday October 5 @ 2:15 - Class Woods Walk** – Hunt for seeds and leaves
- **No School Friday October 6 – Monday October 9** (Professional Day/Monday Federal Holiday)
- **Tuesday October 24, 9 AM**– First Grade & Multi Kinderkonzert Field Trip to Crooker Theater

Last Week, This Week (and Next Week) We're Working on...

- **Reading: Building Strong Reading Habits & Amping our Reading Power** – Doing something after we read (retell, re-read a favorite part, ask questions), set reading goals, re-read to smooth your reading, scoop up words and phrases
 - Began reading groups where targeted teaching is focused on reader development
 - This week: We're introducing nightly reading logs to use at home and return (ALL). Click [HERE](#) for reading log info.
 - Starting soon, 1st graders will begin to bring home leveled appropriate books to read during the week (Monday-Thursday, return Fridays) - Working on scheduling volunteers to help with this
 - 2nd grade families – contact me if you're in need some books for your child
- **Word Work – Spelling, Word Sorts, & Making Words**
 - **Spelling** - Starting in trimester one, 2nd graders will be given 5 spelling words and 3 challenge words related to spelling patterns that require more focus
 - 2nd graders have spelling work "Fun Sheets" to practice their word lists in class
 - 2nd grade spelling words have begun to be affixed to Come & Go folders in the upper right hand corner
 - Flexible readiness spelling tests will be given by parent volunteers for 2nd graders every couple weeks
 - 1st Graders will have a small list of core words they're expected to spell correctly (by year's end) in their writing. Word examples: was the, are, what, of, in, is, an, to, I, etc.)
 - Starting in trimester two, 1st grade spelling tests (similar to grade 2) will begin focusing first on the core word list and moving on according to their spelling strengths and stretches– More coming in trimester 2
 - 1st graders currently have a small list of words (3-5) to spell correctly that is posted in their writing folder
 - **Word Sorts & Spelling Patterns** - Each child has differentiated word sorts that focus on spelling patterns. Goes home after practicing the sort
 - **Making Words** - Short vowels – i (gr. 1) & Vowel teams/digraph blends (oa, th, thr)
- **Writing:**
 - **Supporting strategies for spelling words** ("say it, slide it, hear it, write it", finding snap words, use little words or parts in bigger words, and (for 2nd graders), using all of the spelling patterns we know to spell words (i.e. *team* -> *tem* or wait -> *wat* but can be wait or wate)
 - **Ideas** -Notice craft moves from mentor authors to apply to our own writing (bold words, ellipses, stretches the story) & making our characters move and showing what our characters' feeling are (smiles, jumps, screams)
- **Science:** Woods Walk this week (behind Coffin School): Seed & leaf collection. **Send seeds from home!** – We'll label, study and sort the seeds. **Woods walk this Thursday @ 2:15 (volunteers welcome).** There will be other Woods walks soon!
- **1st Grade Math: Chapter 2 – Number Bonds** –Finding parts of a number and exploring different ways to break apart #'s

Classroom Updates

- **Kinderkonzert Permission slips** were sent home - \$15 for 4 different concerts we attend. More info on the program [HERE](#)
- **Celebrations & Class Dojo** – We use [Class Dojo](#) in the classroom to recognize class expectations. Contact me if you'd like a code to see how your child has been doing – daily tracking for student behavior. When a child arrives at 50 Dojo points, we celebrate with incentives for the child (i.e. peer from another class visits, lunch in classroom, tablet time, leader of the day). Another class-wide celebration occurs when we ALL are caught following community expectations. Celebrations range from popcorn snack/lunch outside or a PJ/ stuffy day. Last Thursday, a vote chose gum day – sugar free, red dye 40d-free gum.
- **Volunteer reminders-** [District Volunteer Form](#) (need this filled to volunteer in our school) & [Room 18 Volunteer Sign Up](#)
- **Reading logs** – Reading logs & info arriving this week. Grade 1 reading Log, Grade 2 reading log, Reading Log Guidelines
- **Class Requests:** **Legos from home** (small amount), any board games or jigsaw puzzles (25-100 piece)

Questions? Contact Mr. Funderburk at efunderburk@brunswick.k12.me.us (BEST OPTION) or 207-319-1950 or by note. All class newsletters are also available 24/7 at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/efunderburk/classroom-newsletters>