

## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be given 5 spelling words and 3 challenge words related to spelling patterns that require more focus
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have spelling work “Fun Sheets” to practice their word lists in class
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> graders every couple weeks
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> graders), using all of the spelling patterns we know to spell words (i.e. *team* -> ~~team~~ 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](mailto: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>**