

Funderburk Room 18 Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter Vol. 5

Covers THE Entire Month of December (12/4/17 – 12/22/17)

*Do you have the patience to wait
Til your mud settles and the water is clear?
Can you remain unmoving
Til the right action arises by itself?*
-Lao Tzu

- **Early Release Day** Wednesday December 6 (1:10 PM Dismissal) – **Professional Day**
- **Coffin School Community Food Drive** Wednesday December 6 – December 13
- **Wednesday December 6 – School-wide Team Jersey, Wednesday December 13 – school colors – green & blue**
- **Full Day of School – Friday December 22**
- **Brunswick High School Choral Concert** - Friday December 22 at 2:45 PM
- **Holiday Break - No School** starting **Monday December 25 –Monday January 1, 2018** (Return on Tuesday January 2, 2018)

Last Week, This Week (and Next Week):

- **Reading: Word Detectives: Take an Even Closer Look at words** (Readers break words into small parts, notice the start and end of words, ID parts of words they know, use vowel teams, while second graders will get more specified reading instruction in reading groups, focusing mostly on reading journals, predicting, summarizing and identifying lessons learned)
- **Study Groups – Quilts & Family traditions** – handing down of customs, ideas and beliefs from one generation to the next. We're reading two texts: *The Keeping Quilt* and *Cherry Pies and Lullabies*, examples of how traditional hand-me-downs tend to change from generation to generation but also remain the same in some ways. We'll discuss our own generational hand-me-downs in the coming weeks. Room 18 will cover rich vocabulary, similes, & comprehension of the text *The Keeping Quilt*
- **Writing: Realistic Fiction Narrative** – We are taking a break from personal narratives to focus on realistic fiction – making up a character that gets in and out of trouble. This year each student has made up their own superhero! During the past week, we have done a lot of planning - 5 super hero traits, special powers and characteristics, a purpose and "origin" story for how the character became a superhero. We've planned a beginning, middle, and end our first chapter. The format will be comic strip-style with lots of dialogue and creative add-ons making characters move and talk like in personal narratives.
- **Handwriting** – I've given each student a handwriting book and we have begun practicing the verbal pathway for letters A-N (lowercase, M-Z this week!). On most letters, we're to start forming near the top, with each letter touching the bottom line
- **Class Read Aloud Book** – Box Car Children – 1920's story that gives students an idea of what life was like 100ish years ago
- **Math** (first grade) –Chapter 5– Shapes – solid & plane shapes; 2nd graders are covering multiplication
- **Spelling** – Starting soon, both 1st & 2nd graders will receive spelling words. Students have been assessed based on where they're at with spelling. We start with the "No Excuse Words" – common words used in everyday writing. 1st graders will be given 5 spelling words in their folders this week while 2nd graders will be given 10 spelling words. Spelling tests will be given weekly and students may sign up when they're ready. When they "pass", they'll get a new list. 1st graders missing one word may move on to the next list and 2nd graders may miss 2. The missed words will still be tacked on to the new list. Additionally, students will be given 3 challenge words differentiated based on spelling patterns they need to work on.

Classroom Updates

- Thank you for coming out to conferences! I thoroughly enjoyed our time chatting & value your input. It's appreciated!
- **"Winter Gear" Update**
 - When we get our first snow fall, please be sure to send both shoes and boots: boots = at recess, can walk in snow, snow pants = at recess, may play in snow
 - **Shoes are to be worn in the building (and in Diversified Arts) while boots are for outdoor activities.**
 - Spare dry clothes should be sent in regularly and stay in backpacks or individual cubbies.
 - Dry pants, socks, underwear and shirts are important to have on hand – especially socks!
 - Snow pants (when snow begins) may stay in the classroom during the week but will be returns home on Fridays
 - The best way to transport snow pants is via a separate large cloth bag that can handle wet snow pants.
- **Classroom Needs:** Old towels for wiping down wet surfaces and drying off wet boots during snow season (thinking ahead ☺), **scotch packing tape**, **extra nut free snacks** for those who don't have a snack, **battery charger for NP-FG1 battery (or spare batteries)** – Sony cyber shot (mine has gone missing, I'd love to continue sending pictures to everyone)
- **12/6-12/13 Food Drive:** Staff & Coffin families may contribute to this initiative, drop off goods in classroom (anything from non-perishables to everyday needs), school-wide goal: 2,000 items, Mr. C has agreed to do something if we meet our goal

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