

# Funderburk Room 18 Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter Vol. 6

“Novus annus!” (Latin for “Happy New Year”)

**Weeks of January 8 – January 22, 2018**

*“I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”*

*– Martin Luther King Jr.*

- **No School Monday January 15** – Martin Luther King’s Birthday Observed
- **Tuesday January 23, 9 AM – 10:30 AM** – Kinderkonzert @ Crooker Theater
- **Weeks of Monday January 8 – February 6** – Arts Are Elementary - Quilting (more info below)
- **Monday February 12** – Dental Health presentation – Coastal Maine Pediatric Dentistry

## On the Horizon (and in the past):

- **Science** - Our class will incorporate scientific data collection that will link to our seasons and water cycle units. Each morning, we’ll place a container of water outside the rear door. During the day our leader of the day will do occasional checks on the water sample, collecting data on the outdoor temperature, time and state of the water (liquid, solid, or somewhere in between). After we have enough data, we’ll make conclusions and talk about our findings during our morning meeting. ,
- **Reading: Becoming Experts: Growing our Nonfiction knowledge:** Tips for exploring, reading and researching nonfiction texts – using pictures, text features and prior knowledge to learn more about the world around us.
- **Shared Reading: Nonfiction texts** including *All About Honeybees* and *Ready, Set, Bike!*
- **Writing:** Informational Writing – We begin our informational writing unit where we put on our “expert” hats to teach readers all we know about our topic. We’ll start by determining strong expert topics, planning using both an introduction & inviting chapter titles. We’ll learn how to incorporate text features like we see in nonfiction books. Most of our unit will ebb and flow in terms of transfer with our reading unit. Strong informational writing skills have already been noted!
- **Math** (1st grade) – We finish Ch. 7 (#’s to 20) this week. **Chapter 8 Addition & Subtraction to 20** is next. 2nd graders are wrapping up their multiplication unit and will move on to bar modeling soon.
- **Word Work** – vowel patterns (i.e. ea words), ambiguous vowel patterns (ou & ow), digraphs (th, ch)
- **Spelling** –I hope we can get back to our regular spelling check-ins. First graders will be given a list of 5 words & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have 10 words on their lists. The list should make its way home in your child’s come & go folder. When they “pass” the check-in, they’ll receive a new list. There should always be some sort of spelling activity worksheet or two that accompanies the list for home practice. Bonus challenge words will be spot checked from time to time as well.

## Classroom Updates

- **Arts Are Elementary** (starting this week) – Local Brunswick artist Cathy Worthington will work with both first grade & multi-age classrooms this year. Students will have an opportunity to design their own textile quilt square. We’ll have four 1- hour long sessions, so study groups will be on pause for a few weeks. Click [HERE](#) for more info on Arts Are Elementary.
- If you’re in the Coffin School hallways, take a look at our **new bulletin board in the first grade/multi-age wing** that highlights one of our imagination study groups – **The Marshmallow Challenge** – complete with pictures, quotes, insights and post-challenge reflections. We had such strong cooperation, authentic frustration and positive reflective insight on this growth mindset team-building challenge.
- **Upcoming later this Winter:** Winter greens planting will occur in each of our classrooms – A guest community member will join us for Indoor salad gardening. We hope to have a late Winter TBD celebratory salad party also.

## Coffin School Outdoor Recess Temperature Policy

- Our official temperature check is via the [Weather.com](http://www.weather.com) website just prior to recesses
- **Policy:** 10 degrees F or above (with wind chill) – Regular 30 minute outdoor recess
- **Policy:** 0-9 degree F (with wind chill) – Abbreviated 10 minute recess
- **Policy:** Below 0 F (with wind chill) – indoor recess
- We always try to encourage movement during indoor recess and in during designated transitions throughout the day

**Questions? Contact Mr. Funderburk at [efunderburk@brunswick.k12.me.us](mailto: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>**