

# Funderburk Room 18

## Final Multi-Age Newsletter for the 2017-2018 School Year

*It seemed as if just weeks ago we were setting up the classroom and constructing shared class rules and expectations. After thinking back about what worked well for our classroom community, it really boiled down to the focus we put into some simple choices that made our academic blocks, transitions and social behaviors shine so well in a way that gave each of us ownership, dignity and input into the process to be successful learners:*

- A. Setting up class expectations,*
- B. Carrying ourselves heavily upon the theme of mindfulness – being present in the moment and paying attention to the minutiae of our breathing and our next immediate movements*
- C. Giving ourselves reasonable breaks, movement opportunities and chances to celebrate our successes in way that allowed all to contribute*
- D. Our ability to communicate and express to each other when something wasn't quite right, safe or comfortable (aka "I messages")*

*Our year has had so many highlights. I think back to the two year growth we've seen in our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, how they have become more compassionate, helpful and healthy role models for our first graders. I recall the excitement we all had for this year's study groups-family studies, night & day, gardening, composting and more. Throughout the year, there was very little complaining. Much of what we do/did was received with joy and excitement. Our choice seating for most of the year made each morning an exciting rush to the classroom. We all have such a fascination with books – both read alouds and self-selected favorites, books that we value, love and read over and over.*

*To sum up our year, I'd describe our class as a whole as thoughtful, joyful, helpful, lively, communicators, cooperative, growers (as individuals and as gardeners), engaged, mindful and positive.*

***I'm so pleased to know that many of you will be joining us again next year!***

*1<sup>st</sup> graders will be back for another year in stepping into more of a leadership role, knowing what is expected, what the set-up will look like and having a chance to take charge as day 1 role models for our new first graders (see our August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting date below). Next year will be an exciting new dynamic of brand new first graders joining us for the ride.*

*We'll continue to incorporate project based learning, music, movement, and celebration into our daily routine.*

*I'm saddened to know that some will need to move on after a short single year but know that everyone's experience was indeed beneficial. I mentioned this last year but it is important to remember that this classroom make-up of 21 children was a once-in-a lifetime experience. Know that as parents you've done great work in getting your children to school daily and supporting them by ensuring they get the most out of their experience at Coffin School. I'm confident that Coffin School will always hold a special place in each child's heart. I thank all of the grade 2 families, knowing this won't be the last time we cross paths. I've really appreciate all of the work that has gone into making your time here well spent.*

*Thank you for all of the snacks, supplies, time volunteering, proactive signing of our field trip permission forms and reading of newsletters*

*Onward to HBS for some!*

*"The story of life is quicker than the wink of an eye, the story of love is hello and goodbye...until we meet again"  
– Jimi Hendrix*

### Upcoming Dates of Interest (we're far from finished)

- **Curtis Memorial Library** Walking Field Trip – Monday June 18 – including a Garth Williams Exhibit
- **Spindleworks** Walking Field Trip – Tuesday June 19
- **Coffin School Field Day** on **Wednesday June 20** – Dress to be outside all day, apply sunscreen, bring lots of snacks
- **Last Day of School** – Friday June 22 (Early Release Day 1:10)
- **Entering 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders:** Thursday August 19, 5:30PM – **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Student Meeting @ Nathaniel Davis Park** – Just Before the Movie in the Park (reconnect and set up some goals for starting the new year as 2<sup>nd</sup> graders)

**MORE ON THE BACK ----->**

## The Next 5 Days – So Much Going On!

*Thanks for supporting your child with consistent bedtimes and school attendance!*

- Let me know soon if your child will not be here on Friday June 22. That will help us all plan and allow for proper closure with each other. We'll be sending off report cards (on Friday) and many other memories from the classroom throughout the week
- **Field Day** is almost upon us (officially on Wednesday). On Wednesday afternoon each child will bring home a Field Day t-shirt which will be signed by classmates. Be sure to send your child to school with lots of water, plenty of snacks and appropriate clothing for being outdoors for roughly 4 hours
- **EPIC Reading App** – We've been using a reading app. with the iPads for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (and also reading ebooks from the app. at the end of the day). The application has a deep inventory of nonfiction, fairy tales, sports books, graphic novels, biographies, mysteries, searchable themes and much more! There are books that appropriate for 4-5 year old ages to as old as 12 or 13. The good news about this app is that it is free for classrooms **but** it does have a subscription fee for home use. After exploring it and observing student use with this application for about 3-4 months, I highly recommend it. It has so much to offer! The website is [www.getepic.com](http://www.getepic.com) and our class code is PBM-0946 if you'd like to check it out over the summer.
- **Summer Reading**
  - **Future 1<sup>st</sup> graders** – my biggest reading charge to those in first grade: 1. Find something you love to read and 2. Read a little each day – at the beach, before bed, early in the morning, in the car, camping in a tent...whenever! Magazines or short story reading is fine. Find books from the library or around the house, in one of many [Little Free Library Locations here in Brunswick](#) or on a Kindle – books that excite you and that you can read each and every day. Next year, I will be asking more of you and to expand your reading horizons.
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> graders** – Many of you have already been given this challenge from me. It's now time to step up your reading game! Over the summer, discover new books from unique genres that interest you. Try something new to read. Find a new series to read over the summer. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade you'll explore mysteries, realistic fiction, biographies and more informational books. It's OK to enjoy a graphic novel or two here and there, but *Dogman*, *Captain Underpants*, and *Superhero books* should not be all that's in your reading diet (they're like the dessert). Create your own goals for reading this summer and find the next new series to get excited about. Finally, come back to Coffin School, visit our class and tell us what you're reading!
- **Summer Garden Watering** - We have a Coffin School garden to tend to this summer so that we can harvest this Fall. I'm trying to find a simple way for us to maintain the watering of the garden in the hot summer months. If you're willing to help or have some ideas (2 x per week, perhaps setting up a rotational system every few weeks based on availability???), let me know!
- Our classroom has had a tradition to hand out **class superlatives** (best attitude, best attendance, overall most compassionate on the playground, etc.) – everyone gets a superlative and the best part – classmates get to vote for each other (an excellent way to wrap up our unit on community)

## Report Card Update

- Distributed Friday June 22<sup>rd</sup>, the last day of school
- Look for the back of the RC for what was covered this year (Writing & Reading) & content covered in trimester 3 (Social Studies/Science). I hope to include spelling pattern growth, sight word growth for first graders, personalized reading and writing strengths/challenges and for some, suggested books to find for over the summer reading based on your reading level
- Math Tests from this trimester will be sent home by Friday ( for both 1<sup>st</sup> grade & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)