

Funderburk Room 18 Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter Vol. 5

Weeks of January 7 – January 21, 2019

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but the existence of justice for all people. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- **No School: Monday January 21** – Martin Luther King National Holiday
- “Carry Out a Book” School Wide Reading Challenge – January 7 – January 27

Last Week, This Week (and Next Week):

- **Reading: Nonfiction Texts** – Readers add to what they know, Readers use the whole page to put parts of a topic together, Readers identify main ideas, Readers spot differences in their topics, Readers retell topics, Readers pay attention to text features. We’ve been reading many animal nonfiction lately- whales, ants, Tigers, wolves and more. *I’m also working with individuals and groups on reading strategies and skills.*
- **Writing:** Realistic Fiction Narrative – Our final fictional character week – We’ve discussed using sparkly words in front of nouns in our writing (while remembering to keep our action words “unfrozen”). We’ll look at books of series authors and notice what they do to make their writing special. This will get us to think about what our own writing might look like. We will also revise and edit for punctuation, letter formation, and neatness while finalizing on Friday with block of reading our stories aloud to the class.
- **Math** (first grade) –Chapter 7 – Numbers to 20 – We’ve worked on finding a 10 to add objects to 20, ways to show place value 13 ones = 1 ten, 3 ones, comparing sets (more/fewer) and patterns for #'s to 20
- **Word Work & Spelling** – As a multi-age teaching team, we plan to mix students 2x per week based on where each child is at as a speller, reader and writer, primarily as it pertains to using and identifying spelling patterns. These groups are flexible and interchangeable, allowing quick movement to other groups upon assessment checks. Our goal is to increase awareness of how readers, writers and spellers break apart words. Our groups will focus the following areas – short vowels (Lowe), blends/diagraphs (Funderburk), long vowel patterns (Stinson), other vowel patterns and beyond (Erb). That will occur W/F 11-11:25
- **Schedule:** Our late afternoon M/W/F schedule has been comprised mostly of Choice Time from 2:40-3:10. Starting this week, we’ll scale back Wednesday’s Choice Time to allow for flexibility in focusing on more class projects, adding to community building activities, continuing an unfinished read aloud, finishing incomplete work, or to possibly add more time to our writing workshop block (which can be a bit short).

Classroom Updates

- Our school wide “**Carry Out a Good Book**” reading challenge officially begins Monday January 7. You’ll receive reading logs by Monday to fill out with your child through the week. Return them at week’s end.
- Our latest class read aloud – *Eagle Song* – A story of an Iroquois Native American grade school boy who has moved from his upstate New York reservation to Brooklyn. The story shares of the challenges of looking differently from peers and contrasts a life that expands beyond the life most of us here in Main live.
- **Spelling** – I’ve started checking children’s 1st and 2nd grade “No Excuse Words” –a set of 15-25 common “must know” spelling words (simple words such as *are, they, of, from, this, what, was, & were*). These spelling words may grace the front of your child’s folder in the coming weeks. We’ll focus on it in class also.
- **New Games** – I recently ordered a **Think Fun Brand Robot Repair** coding logic board game AND a **Rover Control** coding game. My goal is to motivate more students to choose cooperative problem solving games over traditional options. See the below “requests” for other games I’d like to bring into the classroom which would add nicely for our after school “Game Day” on the horizon (see below)
- **Game Day Returns** – Some students have asked whether last year’s weekly after school “Game Day” will return. I’m contemplating a possible return for “Game Day” starting on Tuesday January 29 (3:30-4:15), details forthcoming
- **Classroom Requests:** I’d like to add: [ThinkFun Color Fold Logic Puzzle](#) & [ThinkFun Swish Card Game](#)

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>