

Funderburk Room 18 Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter Vol. 8

Weeks of February 25 – March 11, 2019

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Tuesdays After School Game Day in Room 18 – 3:30 -4:15 (Returns this week)
- Friday March 8 – No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nonfiction Writing Celebration – late March, possibly the day of our Spring Concert, details TBD
- Thursday March 28 – Coffin School Spring Concert

Last Week, This Week (and Next Week):

- **Reading:** Wrapping up our nonfiction unit while moving into useful reading strategies for fluency, phonics & comprehension. As readers, we have a big job to “amp” up our reading - self-correcting, thinking about the story context, and using our newer reading strategy inventory to make our reading sound smoother and more fluent
- **Reading Group Work:** Some students have had the opportunity to read with one of two of our America Reads Bowdoin tutors. They have been taking small groups, reading through a text, studying new vocabulary words, and initiating discussion questions to help support reading comprehension. These groups have been going well and many readers have enjoyed the extra challenge and peer collaboration.
- **Shared Reading:** One of the most powerful parts of our week are when we come together to read a shared piece using applicable skills that we’ve practiced over the weeks. These skills are transferable to our reading and writing and often support our learning in content studies. This week, we’ll support our Animal unit by reading *Animal Skeletons*.
- **Writing:** We are wrapping up our nonfiction unit while focusing on conventions (punctuation, spacing, capitalization, & letter formation), editing, revising and publishing
- **Math: Chapter 9** Length (first grade) – using different units to measure, measuring using a ruler
- **Handwriting:** Focus on transfer to our writing and using the handwriting lines appropriately
- **Science/Social Studies:** Continuing our study animal study: Classifications, Bird Beaks, Clues from Skulls & Eggs. Tuesday will be our final session of group 1 & Thursday we’ll start with round 2 – Tuesdays & Thursday 12:45-1:45 – e-mail or send a note if you’re interested in helping in our classroom any time through the end of March

Classroom Updates

- We recently filled our gem jar, after doing a great job coming together as a class and showing some excellent late afternoon stamina. Filling the jar was something that took a little time to accomplish. We narrowed down our choices on Friday but will likely finalize our celebration on Monday afternoon.
- **Mindfulness:** We’ll likely start (& continue) our week with some mindfulness exercises to recalibrate
- **Conferences & Report Cards:** Thanks to all of the families who have signed up for a Friday March 8 conference. We’ll go over any questions you may have & review report card details with a copy of the report card going home March 15 once all of the grading has been finalized. For those who have yet to register and you’re in need of a particular time slot that has been taken, feel free to reach out to request another day or evening. I’m happy to accommodate a time that works for you. If you haven’t registered for a conference, go to www.ptcfast.com/reg1 & use the code **HK81267658**, or send a note/e-mail.
- **Classroom Requests:** Thank you for all of the generosity of post-it notes, snacks, spoons and other items. We are a lucky classroom to have such generous families.

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>