



# News From Room 14

October 2017

Dear Families,

I hope everyone fared well with the storm! Fall is in full swing which means the weather can be unpredictable. The kids absolutely need to have some sort of jacket with them every day. Also, please be aware that we do go outside even if the weather is a little rainy; keep this in mind when sending your child to school with rain in the forecast.

November means Parent/Teacher Conferences. I am so looking forward to meeting with each of you to talk about the progress your child is making and having some time to get to know each other. You should have received an email about scheduling conferences electronically; I attached a letter for your reference as well.

I wanted to remind everyone that free and reduced lunch and breakfast meals are available; students who receive free OR reduced lunch can get breakfast for free in the café daily. Please let me know if you need a form sent home to access this program. You can also contact the office directly.

Please remember that our class has a late lunch when packing snacks. Healthy, filling snacks help your child do their best at school. We have an "extra snack" bin that kids can access as needed and I seem to be filling it up a lot lately!

Your partner in learning,

Mrs. Sciacca



Diversified Arts are an important part of education. Our students benefit from art, music, library and physical education classes every week!

## Mark Your Calendar!

PJ Day is moved to Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>!

No School – Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

Picture Retakes – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>

Scholastic Book Fair – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Early Release – Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>

No School – Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>

## What's Happening In...

### **Reader's Workshop:**

We wrapped up our first reading unit with a "Flashlight Reading" celebration with Mrs. Martin's and Mrs. Frost's students. We had so much fun! The kids now have a large repertoire of strategies to help them solve tricky words, read smoothly and understand what they read. Our next unit focuses on being "word detectives" and the kids have accepted the challenge of completing missions each day to solve tricky words. If we complete all our missions, we all earn Word Detective badges! My little detectives are certainly up for the challenge and will be working hard to earn those badges. Every child now has a home reading bag. Please help your child remember to do their nightly reading and return the bag each day; the new monthly reading log should be filled out for each day that your child reads then returned at the end of the month.

### **Writer's Workshop:**

Our Small Moments unit has come to an end. Throughout the unit the students have learned how to write a story (in pictures and in words) that focuses on one small moment that happened to them. We have been learning how to stretch out parts of our stories with details, include feelings and thoughts as well as events and bring our stories to life. In addition, we have been working on punctuation, using what we know about words to spell the best we can and writing with lower case letters. The kids all revised and edited a story of their choice then rewrote it in their best handwriting so it would be ready for others to read. We shared our stories with Mrs. Hunt's kindergarten class and they will be on display in the hallway soon. Be sure to take some time to read them the next time you are at school! Our next unit will be Informational Writing.

### **Word Study:**

Word families and short vowels have been the main focus this month during Word Study. We have been working on noticing and using chunks to read and spell as well as practicing our short vowels sounds. I have been introducing word sorts to the kids as this is something we will use weekly for the remainder of the year. Students will have word sorts specific to what they need to work on; they will sort the words and/or pictures and do various activities with them to become more familiar with the spelling patterns they are working on. In addition, I have set up activities related to the spelling patterns so students can get extra practice in the areas they need to work on. Students continue to work on their personalized spelling words. They are given a little quiz every other Friday and get new words once they have mastered their current list.

### **Math in Focus:**

Our math focus this month has been on addition and subtraction to 10. The kids have learned various strategies including counting on and back, using a number line, using cubes, drawing a picture and using a number bond. We have applied our new skills to story problems and critical thinking activities. We are currently wrapping up our subtraction unit and working on our math fluency. You can support your child by helping them memorize facts to 10 in both addition and subtraction. Next up is geometry!

### **Science and Social Studies:**

In Social Studies, we have been learning about how our actions and decisions impact those around us. This concept is a tough one, but the kids are doing a great job thinking and talking about it. We reaped the rewards of working together once again when we filled our Gem Jar and got to have "yoga day" as a reward.

Students heard the book "Pumpkin Circle" and then watched the movie to compare the two. Afterwards, they practiced the life cycle as a whole group and then completed their own life cycle to show their understanding. We have been reading other pumpkin books as well. After reading "Pumpkin Jack", the kids had a lot of questions, so we are doing an experiment. We put a pumpkin on some soil in a sealed clear container and we will observe it over time to see what happens. Our little scientists have some great theories!