



News From Room 14

February 2018

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a restful February vacation. We were all very excited to return to school and meet our new classmate! The kids have been doing a great job welcoming Mason to Coffin School.

Just a reminder that school breakfast is available for purchase. Please let your child know if you would like them to buy breakfast at school.

This Friday the whole school will be celebrating Read Across America by dressing up as our favorite book characters! Please be sure your child's costume will not interfere with their daily activities. I am happy to help any child who needs assistance with their costume, so let me know if you need a helping hand.

We will also be attending a jump roping workshop led by a jump roping team from Topsham on Friday. It is sure to be fun day!

Conference scheduling has begun - please sign up by this Friday using the information I emailed/sent home in folders. If you have circumstances that prevent you from meeting with me on the scheduled dates, please contact me so we can make an alternate plan. I am looking forward to meeting with everyone!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sciacca



We are nonfiction authors!

Mark Your Calendar!

Book Character Dress Up Day - Mar. 2nd

No School/Conferences - Mar. 16th

Early Release Day - Mar. 21st

Spring Reading Challenge

Beginning on March 19th, all students are encouraged to participate in the challenge by completing the reading logs sent home by the library.

What's Happening In...

Reader's Workshop:

Our next unit, Readers Have Big Jobs To Do, is in full swing. This unit digs deeper into the strategies people need to read and understand text. It also encourages kids to "be the boss" of their reading...and they are certainly doing just that! As kids read higher level books, it becomes more challenging for them to remember to think while they are reading. You can help your child with this skill by listening to them read and asking questions before, during and after. Some children prefer to read to themselves at this stage and that is fine. Continue talking to them about their reading and find out what they know! I will be assessing all children over the next couple of weeks as we head toward conferences. Please work with your child to help them reach their reading goals by filling out the provided reading chart.

Writer's Workshop:

Our little authors have been hard at work publishing their nonfiction books. These books will be out in the hallway during conferences for you to read – after all, authors write for an audience! You will have the chance to jot notes to let the authors know what you admire about their writing, so try to come a little early or stay a few minutes after your conference! At this time of the year, most children are using punctuation with some accuracy, writing in lower case and upper case letters when appropriate most of the time, and using vowels, blends, and digraphs in ways that help their reader read their writing. This week we are wrapping up our nonfiction writing. Next up is opinion writing!

Word Study:

We have been reviewing the spelling strategies we have learned and applying them in our daily writing. Due to the break and the many interruptions from weather, we did not add any new spelling conventions this month. The kids have been practicing with their personal spelling words and working on the areas that they personally need to focus on. I have seen nice growth!

Math in Focus:

We wrapped up our chapter on addition and subtraction this month and the kids did a great job! We spent some time learning about measuring length with nonstandard units, which the kids mastered quickly. We are now working on graphing and expect to finish up next week. The kids are really enjoying collecting and analyzing data! We will head into working with numbers to 40 next. We have been keeping addition and subtraction strategies fresh in our minds through our math warm ups, math tubs and fact fluency practice. Many of the kids are still working on memorizing their facts to 10 and doubles facts, which means that addition and subtraction with larger numbers feels cumbersome to them; please continue to (or begin) working on these facts with them at home to help them be more successful at school.

Science and Social Studies:

In social studies this month we spent some time talking about friendship and what it means to be a friend. For science, we studied health and nutrition. The kids really enjoyed our handwashing experiment and were surprised to see how many "germs" were still on their hands after washing them. We practiced good handwashing, sneezing and coughing procedures after learning how germs are passed from one person to another. The kids learned about healthy foods and the food groups we should be eating from to keep our bodies healthy. We also had a visit from SASSMM to learn about personal safety.