



# News From Room 14

March 2018

Dear Families,

It was great to see everyone at conferences this month! Thank you all for taking the time to come in and chat with me. Conferences are just as beneficial for teachers as they are for parents!

With all the snow we have had, it felt like winter would never end! Although spring is officially here, please remember that we play outside every day and the kids will continue to need snow clothes for a while. Our playground is very muddy in the spring, so please keep that in mind as well. Indoor shoes are essential to keeping our floors and rugs clean, so please help your child remember to pack shoes each day.

The Spring Reading Challenge is in full swing. Please help your child participate by filling out the charts sent home and returning them to school. This is a great way to promote reading and school spirit! We are still filling in our reading charts as well. I love hearing the kids set high goals for reading! The kids who bring them back are having fun reading with stuffed animals. Keep them coming!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sciacca



Book Character Dress Up Day was so much fun!

## Mark Your Calendar!

Early Release – April 12<sup>th</sup>

No School – April 13<sup>th</sup>

April Break – April 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

Poem in Your Pocket Day – April 26<sup>th</sup>

## What's Happening In...

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

The kids have been hard at work fine tuning their reading strategies and taking charge of their own reading. In our current unit the kids are working on thinking more about their reading. They are combining the great strategies they have for solving tricky words with strategies for understanding their reading. Our books are getting longer and more complex, making it essential to think more while reading. We have been working on keeping track of stories through characters' actions as well as their words. In addition, we are working on inferring what is happening when the author's words don't tell us exactly what is going on.

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

I hope you took the time to browse our informational books during conference time. The kids did a fantastic job writing books that teach! We have begun learning how to use our writing to express our opinions. We will learn how to state opinions and give reasons to persuade others to agree with us. As the unit progresses, we will also write reviews of books, restaurants, movies and other things that are important to the kids. Don't be surprised if your child becomes more skilled at convincing you to change your mind!

### **Word Study:**

We continued our work with vowel teams and long vowel sounds this month. The kids are doing a great job using this knowledge in their reading and writing. I often hear them telling each other when they hear a long vowel sound in a word they are writing or reading! Individualized word study work is paying off and I am seeing nice gains! Our spelling center was freshened up with some new spelling activities which sparked more excitement about practicing spelling words.

### **Math in Focus:**

Our chapters on length and graphing were very successful and we flew right through them. We also completed a chapter on numbers to 40. We covered recognizing and writing numbers to 40 (in numbers and words) and counting on and back. We also did a lot of work with place value, which is very important as we move into addition and subtraction to 40. Many of the kids struggled with finding the missing numbers in patterns – this is a skill you can work on at home easily by simply writing a pattern and leaving a couple of numbers out. Our next chapter, Addition and Subtraction to 40, is one of the harder chapters of the year. That being said, these little mathematicians work hard so I have a feeling we will make steady progress!

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

This month in science we began studying why we have night and day. The kids were fascinated by this topic and will be continuing to expand their knowledge and understanding through our first science packet. Mrs. McCormack came to visit us and did a fun activity that helped us understand the water cycle. We also continued our study of plants by planting salad greens and observing them as they grew. We will have our "Saladbration" this week when we get to combine our plants to make a salad for all of us to eat! In social studies we worked on problem solving using the skills we learned from our visits from Mrs. Bradley. The kids are getting better and better at working out peer conflicts on their own. We also spent some time discussing what it means to be responsible with our actions and our words.