



News From Room 14

April 2018

Dear Families,

There are only eight weeks left of first grade and we have so much happening! Events are listed here, but I will be sending home another list once the TBD dates are set.

Please keep in mind that we will also be doing year-end testing while all of this is going on. It is a super busy time of year and it is very important that your child comes to school ready for all that is in store.

I want to give a heads up that your child will need a plain white t-shirt for Field Day. Local stores start running short in June because of this event! I have extras, if needed.

Two of our events are great opportunities for parents to come to school and be a part of the fantastic Coffin community! Field day requires a lot of helping hands, so be on the lookout for sign ups to volunteer. Also, be sure to plan to attend our Literacy Celebration to see your child perform in Reader's Theater!

Botanical Gardens permission slips were sent home last week. I will need parent chaperones, so please let me know if you are available to come with us. It is always a wonderful day and works best with several chaperones so the kids can travel in small groups. It is always a class favorite and tons of fun!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sciacca

You are invited!

Our class will be performing Readers' Theater at our Literacy Celebration on June 15th from 2:00-3:00. I wanted to let you know now so you can plan to attend. It is my hope that every child will have a loved one present to support them.

Mark Your Calendar!

Chris Van Dusen Visit – May 2nd 1:40-2:10
Early Release – May 9th
Spring Concert – May 10th
Performances at 9:30 and 1:00 (Same show each time!)
No School – May 28th
Botanical Gardens – May 29th
Kinderkonzert – May 30th
Step Up Day – June 6th
Curtis Memorial Library – TBD
Community Garden – TBD (week of June 11th)
Maine State Music Theater – June 13th
Literacy Celebration – June 15th 2:00-3:00
Field Day – June 20th (rain date June 21st)
Last Day/Early Release – June 23rd

Please remember that you must fill out the volunteer form in order to help out at Field Day or chaperone!

What's Happening In...

Reader's Workshop:

We have begun my favorite reading unit of the year – Getting to Know Characters! Students are really buying into the idea that every book is a chance to go on an adventure. Our reading adventures abound! Students have learned that diving into a book is like going on an adventure alongside the characters. We have been learning to use the clues that authors leaves us to better understand the story and the characters as well as read books the way the author intended by paying attention to punctuation and other features. Keeping track of the story becomes more difficult as books get longer and more detailed. Be sure to have conversations with your child about what they are reading to help them with this skill. Fluency skills are increasing rapidly as the children learn to make their voice match the mood of the story. It is so much fun to hear them change their voices to sound like the characters in their books! You will get to see the fruits of their labor when you attend our Reader's Theater performance in June!

Writer's Workshop:

Our little authors have been hard at work writing opinion pieces that convince others to join them in their point of view. We have learned that it is important to clearly state your opinion at the beginning of your writing, give many reasons to support your opinion, and to restate your opinion at the end of your piece. In addition, we have an ongoing list of things that authors often include to help convince others such as sparkly words, quotes from experts, talking back to those who may disagree, and making comparisons. Recently we have been talking about writing a hook to get the reader interested and a catchy conclusion to wrap up writing. We are now using our skills to work on writing book reviews.

Word Study:

I checked in with all students again this month to revamp our word study focus because I have been seeing a lot of growth in reading and writing and wanted to make sure I knew what skills each student has mastered and which ones they need to work on. Using the results and what I have seen in their reading and writing, I revamped our Word Study Center and reassigned students to skills they need to work on. The transfer to their writing is a huge piece of this work; if they can do the skill in isolation but are not applying it in their work then they need more practice! Whole group lessons have focused on long vowel teams.

Math in Focus:

After wrapping up our work with numbers to 40, we began working on addition and subtraction to 40. Addition and subtraction without regrouping was a snap for most of us; addition and subtraction WITH regrouping has been a bit more challenging. I was expecting this! While the concept of trading 10 ones for one ten (and vice versa) makes sense to them, putting it into practice on paper is much trickier for many children. We have spent a lot of time practicing with manipulatives. We will continue to practice this new skill and apply it to story problems this week.

Science and Social Studies:

This month in science we learned why we have night and day through books, videos, charts, and a learning packet. Students were able to create a model and explain the concept at the end of the unit. We also continued our study of plants by pulling apart our salad green plants to study their root beds. In social studies, we have been connecting to our writing unit by sharing our opinions about things in our school and local community. The kids worked together to write a poem about Coffin School on Poem in Your Pocket Day.