



News From Room 14

May 2018

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that I am writing the last newsletter of the year! Things have been very busy, and will continue to be busy, here in room 14.

Our Botanical Gardens field trip was a big success. The kids had a blast investigating the gardens! A big thank you to all the wonderful chaperones who came with us and helped make this day happen.

As we move through our last month together, I can't help but reflect on how far the kids have come. When I think back across the school year I am reminded of the hard work and effort it takes to get to where we are today. These kids amaze me! Please know that your support at home makes a huge difference.

We have two events in June that I encourage parents to participate in. First, please come to our Literacy Celebration! It means the world to the kids to have you there to share in the joy of their success. Second, Field Day takes MANY hands and is a wonderful day to volunteer.

We still have a month to go and more time to grow!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sciacca

You are invited to our Literacy Celebration!

Date: Thursday, June 15th

Time: 2:00 to 3:00

Where: Room 14

Every child will perform in a Reader's Theater play!

Mark Your Calendar!

Step Up Day – June 6th

Community Garden Trip – June 8th

Maine State Music Theater – June 13th

Literacy Celebration – June 15th

Curtis Memorial Library – June 19th

Field Day – June 20th (rain date June 21st)

Last Day of School – June 22nd

What's Happening In...

Reader's Workshop:

We dove deeper into our books by learning to get to know the characters we read about. The kids have been paying attention to the traits of their characters, both their outside characteristics and who they are on the inside, to better understand the books they read. We have been noticing what the characters say and how they say it, how they feel about what is happening and how they change throughout the book. Students have learned to make bigger meaning out of their reading by thinking about the lessons their characters learn and relating those lessons to their own lives. Students are reading books from series and noticing how the characters stay the same and how they change across the series. We are extending this to our Reader's Theater work as we get to know the characters in our plays and decide how to portray them.

Writer's Workshop:

Our final writing unit is Realistic Fiction and the kids are having a blast with it! We have learned that we can use things that have happened to us to write adventures for our fictional characters. The kids are learning to introduce their characters, create a setting and include a problem that gets solved by the end of the story. We are using what we learn from reading series books to push ourselves as writers. Each student has chosen a character to write a series about which they will share with you at our Literacy Celebration!

Word Study:

We spent some time working with "y" sounds and reviewing other long vowel sounds. One student blurted out, "Oh, now I get why sometimes y is a vowel, too!" Students are being held accountable for trying to use the spelling patterns we have studied to spell long vowel words – they may not always use the correct pattern, but they are trying! We are completing our last word sort of the year, but will continue to work with our personal spelling words and spelling patterns.

Math in Focus:

Our work with addition and subtraction to 40 continued into May. Regrouping was a difficult skill for many students, but their hard work and persistence paid off! We moved on to learning about the calendar and telling time to the hour and half hour, which the kids mastered quickly. They are so interested in telling time that I am continuing to work it into our day so they can learn more! We quickly worked through Numbers to 120, and are ending the year with addition and subtraction to 100.

Science and Social Studies:

This month in science we focused on plants. We planted squash and nasturtiums which we will transplant into the Tom Settlemire Garden on our walking field trip. The kids know what plants need to grow and the parts of a plant. They will be extending their learning through science packets to help with "reading to learn" skills. Our Botanical Gardens field trip was a wonderful way to enhance this unit! We will be learning about the water cycle for our last science unit.

Our many field trips in May and June are great connections to our community, which we have been studying all year. I am hopeful that visiting Curtis Memorial Library will inspire the kids to want to visit many times again; my close friend Miss Jenn, who has been volunteering in the classroom all year, happens to work there so they already have a friendly face at the library!