

Mr. Funderburk's Coffin School
1st Grade Newsletter Vol. 2
Weeks of October 13- October 27, 2014

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- **4th Annual Read-A-Thon** – October 13-24th
- **1st Walk/Bike to School Day of the School Year** – Friday October 17
- **Community For Coffin Meeting** – Tuesday October 21, 7 PM Coffin School
- **Kinderkonzert @ Crooker Theater** – Tuesday October 28 (9 -10:30 AM, no need for chaperones)
- **Picture Retake Day** – Monday November 3

This Week We're Working on...

- **Reading Workshop:** Super impressed with our class' stamina while practicing "Read to Someone." We met our reading buddies for Friends Group this past Wednesday. It went very well. Future: Parts of **retelling** a story (characters, setting, beginning, problem, and solution)
- **CAFÉ (literacy)** – Adding reading strategies to our "menu" wall to build upon our **Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency**– *early heavy focus on comprehension*, tying in with our unit on *retelling*
- **Monthly Unit Study:** Seasons and Life cycle of an apple/pumpkin
- **Writing:** Big focus this past week on establishing goals as a writer – ("Something we would like to work on" vs. "something I am really good at and can easily achieve"). We are also working on making our stories come alive by letting our characters *talk* (quotations/speech bubbles), *move* ("I ran" or "We drove" vs. "I/we went"), and *feel* (instead of writing "I was happy", write "I smiled and shouted "Hooray!") AND examining others' writing craft (what do we notice others doing that can help us improve our writing?)
- **Word Study** – Thanks for taking the time to look at the sorts brought home and discussing with your child why and how they are sorting.
- **Math:** Ch. 3: Adding Numbers to 10 (various strategies to add to 10 and to add using real world stories)
- **Second Step:** Lori Watson presents on Tuesdays afternoons. Students have been responding well to the shared language. Thanks for working with your child on responding to what their learned!

Classroom Notes

- **Celebration!** Our classroom recently received funding for a project that will bring multi-color comfortable seats, sturdy headphones, and a 1 year subscription to Time For Kids (value of \$443) into the classroom via [Donors Choose](#) :: US Cellular helped fund much of the project but we also had 11 unique donors. Kids were excited to hear the news. We will write thank you letters to the donors.
- **Bookmark [Raz Kids](#)** – Super excited about this opportunity:: Online reading resource program :: Log in letter going home on Tuesday :: See next page for details (this counts toward daily home reading logs)
- **Home Reading Logs** – If you need a new copy, you may find it [HERE](#)
- **Type To Learn** :: School district keyboarding program :: Click [HERE](#) below to download home version (one time only) :: More resources available at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/gchristman/computer-skills/>
- **Math Homework Update** – If your child is receiving some extra practice in Math, it is either to complete unfinished classwork or to sharpen skills that need reinforcement. Typically it will be no more than 1 pg./day
- We will have another life cycle Science study *this* Friday – ***We'll examine the life cycle of a pumpkin*** while asking questions, noticing and recording data about our pumpkins - this will be a two, perhaps three week study that will occur on Friday mornings, integrating some computer time into this project
- **Needs:** Different sized/colored/"phases" of **pumpkins** to display/place in the classroom for the coming 3 weeks, **indoor recess donations** – board games, indoor activity books, unused toys, etc.

Questions? Contact Mr. Funderburk at efunderburk@brunswick.k12.me.us or 319-1950 or by note. All class newsletters are also available 24/7 at <http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/efunderburk/classroom-newsletters>

Raz Kids Reading Program

www.Raz-kids.com

- Students log in using teacher name (efunderburk0) ←-zero, find their name and log in
- **Who?** All students in our class may access this site with an internet connection using a ***password of your child's first initial last initial (i.e. – ef)***
- **What? Ebook reading website** (with a variety of genre fiction/non-fiction books) that ***allows children to choose books to read books, listen to books, record their reading and quiz their comprehension.*** Students earn stars for reading books, taking quizzes and logging in. Stars can be used to exchange for building a robot/rocket ship prototype (Math)
- **Where?** Accessible through any computer (school/home) or free smart phones/tablet app download (see accompanying letter coming home soon)
- **When?** Opportunities during our Literacy blocks and at home for as long as you'd like
- **Why?** Choice. Empowers children to find interesting “good fit” books. It helps build reading stamina, fluency, & confidence ***but*** also allows Mr. Funderburk to evaluate individual student comprehension (5 question quizzes), use of reading strategies (when recording audio) and tracking interests/reading consistency
- It's simple. Explore for now. More info to come!