

Funderburk Multi-Age Classroom Newsletter

Vol. 5, Weeks of November 11- December 12, 2019

The level of our success is limited only by our imagination and no act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

Upcoming Dates of Interest

- **Monday November 11** – No School -Veteran's Day observed
- **Tuesday November 12** – Picture Retake Day-*send a note if you'd like your child to retake their picture*
- **Friday November 21** - Class Scholastic Book Orders due (if interested)
- **Tuesday November 26 Early Release Day** (1:10 PM Dismissal) – **Parent/ Teachers Conferences**
- **Wednesday November 27 –Friday November 29** No School – Conferences/Thanksgiving Break
- **Tuesday December 3** - Arts Are Elementary guest artist visit - Seasons: song, movement & poetry
- **Wednesday December 4** - Early Release Day (1:10 PM Dismissal) - Professional Day

Last Week, This Week (and Next Week) We're Working on...

Reading: Students can be Word Detectives - studying words carefully like a detective

Writing: Publishing our narrative books - students have chosen a book from their collection of writing to edit, revise, and rewrite.

Science/Study Groups

- Pumpkin life cycle, observation study - decomposition, seed predictions, writing in literary language

Computer Lab

- We will try to finish our *It's Okay to be Different* picture and quotes from the computer lab
- Adding a text box, finalizing our colors and saving each drawing for a book we will ultimately publish (sneak peak: "It's OK to have no hair, to be homeless, to come from a different place")<---these are three of our ideas!

Word Work/Handwriting/Spelling

- **Handwriting** - continuing to review and work through writing proportionate lowercase letters
- **Making Words - Gr. 1** (word families - is, op, ep, ed, digraphs - sh, ch, ish, ash, inflected endings - -ed), **Gr. 2** (digraphs - sh, -ink, r-controlled vowels - er, inflected endings -es, -ing, homophones)
- Assessing our growth on spelling inventory words
- Assessing sight word recognition growth for first grade and some second graders

1st Grade Math: Chapter 4 - Subtraction to 10 - fact families, balancing equations (basic), review of strategies to subtract

2nd Grade Math: Chapter 5 - Multiplication

Classroom & School Updates

- **Leverage Learning Professional Day**

*On Friday, I was able to attend a highly engaging conference on technology in the classroom. The opening keynote speaker spoke of the ever evolving world of technology and how technology is ingrained in our lives. The idea of "screen time", formally known as "inactive screen use", (i.e watching a show) can also be used as purposeful engagement (i.e. having a clipboard and taking notes while viewing something). The biggest take away for me was the power of a photo. Pictures are worth thousands of words. It can spark a conversation, cue a teaching point, and can turn our classic KWL anchor charts (What do I Know about a topic? What to I Want to know? What did I Learn?) upside down. I observed a virtual classroom, learned age appropriate and simple ways for children to explore, create and integrate music, drawing, art and video into responses, **and** discovered how to use apps like CLIPS, that were always on our ipads. Too much to share here. Time well spent. As a district, we hope to move along the spectrum of SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, & Redefinition) -Clearly we want to find ways to augment and modify learning through technology.*

- **Celebration Tuesday** - We'll view the animated film, *Tale of Despereaux* on Tuesday morning as part of our celebration. We'll compare/contrast how the book and film were the same and different.
- We'll redo for our LEAP Simple Machines presentation from Friday - likely sometime this or next week

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>