

First Grade Happenings

JANUARY 22, 2019

Dear Families,

We have been assessing children's progress over the last 2 weeks, and we're feeling so proud of our students! They have come a long way since August. Going into 3rd Quarter, we are excited to continue seeing them mature and learn. Thank you for your support and partnership with us - Wiley families are the best!



REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, January 22 - 3rd Quarter electives begin
- Friday, January 25 - Movie Night at Wiley! 6:30 pm
- Monday, January 28 - First Grades do "Science Is Fun" in-house field trip (\$8.50 due now)
- Monday, February 4 - Report Cards go home
- Thursday, February 7 - Wiley Band Concert
- Friday, February 15 - Early Release (dismiss at 1:15 pm)
- Monday, February 18 - Teacher Workday, no school for kids
- Thursday, February 27 - Literacy Night (more details to come home later)

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading*, we have been learning about nonfiction text features (Table of Contents, photographs, captions, graphs, tables, diagrams, bold and italics text, keywords, subheadings, glossary, index.) We will finish that unit this week and give an assessment on Friday. Next week we will begin addressing standard RI 1.9, which is "Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic." Students will examine nonfiction texts on the same topic and compare and contrast them.

In Letterland, we are doing Unit 15 this week, which addresses the endings -nk and -ng. These ending blends are found in words like bank, think, song, and thing. This also includes the -ing

ending that we see in many words such as flying and resting. Next week in Unit 16 we will study the silent e at the end of words with the vowel "a" in the middle; for example, "gave" and "made". As always, the new word lists will come home at the beginning of the week, and assessments will be given on Fridays. Please practice words with your child at home as needed.

Last week we concluded our social studies unit on cultures and holidays, and this week we are beginning a *science* unit. The unit is called "Balance and Motion", and it addresses Standard 1.P.1, "Understand how forces (pushes or pulls) affect the motion of an object." During this unit of study, students will observe different types of motion (rolling, spinning, sliding, etc.) and how forces act upon those motions. We will also look at how objects can be balanced by exerting forces on them. The "Science Is Fun" group will visit us on Jan. 28 and provide some really fun activities and experiences to help students understand these concepts.

In *writing*, we are also starting a new unit. We will be working on standard W.1.2, which says children will "write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide closure." This week we will begin learning how to write "All About" books. Students will choose a topic with which they are already familiar and write facts about that topic. They will learn how to write introductions and closing statements and will incorporate some of the nonfiction text features they have learned about. They will go through the writing process - planning, writing a draft, revising, editing, and publishing - to produce a book that will reflect what they learned about this type of writing.

Last but not least, in *math* we will work on standard OA.7 - "Apply understanding of the equal sign to determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true." Students will learn how to determine if one expression is equal to a total or if two expressions are equal to each other. For example, does $7+8=15$? Does $6+3 = 2+8$? $5+6=10+$?



- **Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Try to read nonfiction at least once each week and ask your child to point out any text features** (table of contents, glossary, index, bold words, caption, heading, subheading, graph, table, chart, labels, etc.) Discuss how the text feature helps you understand the topic better.
- **Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 15 this week and Unit 16 next week. Assessments will be given on Fridays.**
- **Make up amounts and expressions that are equal and ask your child to determine if they are equal.** For example, you could say "You have 12 beans on your plate. I had 5 beans already, and I have 7 beans on my plate now. Are we getting the same number of beans, or is one of us getting more?"
- **Notice and talk about any motion that comes up organically in the course of your week: tires rolling, balls rolling, tops spinning, anything that rotates, spins, rolls, etc.**

**Memberhub link with comprehension questions, Letterland word lists, and math challenge problems can be found at: [:https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository](https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository)*

Have a great week!

sabel@wcpss.net, cblum@wcpss.net, awierman2@wcpss.net