

First Grade Happenings

JANUARY 7, 2019

Dear Families,

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday season. December was very busy and fun for us at school. We hope your child came home talking about the different holidays and cultures we studied. We especially thank our parents who shared their cultures with us: Heather Roberts, Chad Roberts, Saul Chernin, Illiane Garcia, Jill Grifenhagen, and Olga Khavjou .



Also, thanks to Molly Strom's kindergarten class, who came by in a Las Posadas parade! These presentations were particularly meaningful coming from authentic sources, rather than just reading or watching videos about the celebrations.

It's hard to believe, but we are approaching the end of the second quarter of school, which means we are already nearly to the middle of the school year. We will be doing a lot of assessments during the next 2-3 weeks. Of course we will do our best to continue providing quality instruction as we complete these assessments. Please see the information below regarding what students will be learning during this time.

We wish you all a wonderful, healthy, happy 2019. We look forward to continuing our partnership with all of you in providing the best education possible for your child.



REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday, January 18** - end of 2nd Quarter
- **Monday, January 21** - HOLIDAY/NO SCHOOL (MLK Day)
- **Monday, February 5** - Report Cards go home

Note: Friday, January 18 is a snow make-up day.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading*, we have been reviewing the differences between fiction and nonfiction texts and will assess students' ability to discern and explain the differences this week. On Thursday of this week, we will begin learning more about some features and structures that are specific to nonfiction text. We call these "nonfiction text features", and they help us navigate and understand informational texts. Such features include things like a Table of Contents, photographs, captions, graphs, tables, diagrams, bold and italics text, keywords, subheadings, a glossary, and an index. Students will learn to identify these features and use them to deepen their understanding of nonfiction texts.

In Letterland, we will cover Unit 13 this week. We will study words that begin with consonant blends with r, such gr, fr, pr, and br. Next week in Unit 14, we will begin studying blends that come at the *end* of words: - nd, nt, st, and sk (in words like hand, went, just, and desk). The new word lists will come home on Mondays, and assessments will be given on Fridays. Please practice words with your child at home as needed.

In *social studies*, we will complete our unit on cultures and traditions. We will learn about Chinese New Year, Children's Day in Japan, and Canada Day.

In *writing*, we will review opinion writing as we continue focusing on capitalization, spelling, handwriting, spacing, and punctuation.

In *math*, we will be working on a comprehensive midyear assessment. This assessment will take several days to complete, as we review daily and then provide students with time to work. It will cover counting and writing numbers to 150, using strategies to add and subtract within 20, solving word problems that require adding, subtracting, and finding a missing addend, understanding that 2-digit numbers are composed of tens and ones, and using place value to compare numbers.



- **Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Ask your child to identify whether the book is fiction or nonfiction and give at least 2 reasons for his/her response.** (Acceptable responses for fiction are: there are characters and a setting, it happens in a sequence, it is not real, there is a problem and a solution. Acceptable responses for nonfiction include: it gives real information and facts, it teaches us about a topic, you can read the pages or chapters out of order and it doesn't really matter, it has certain features that stories don't have such as graphs, tables, diagrams, captions, glossaries, etc.)
- **Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 13 this week and Unit 14 next week. Assessments will be given on Fridays.**
- **Present two 2-digit numbers to your child and ask him or her to identify how many tens and how many ones are in that number.** (For example, if you say "62", your child should say that it is 6 tens and 2 ones. Do this in reverse as well; you can say, "What is the number for 6 tens and 2 ones?" and your child should say "62.")

- Ask your child to tell you about Chinese New Year and compare it to our New Year's Day.

**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).*

Happy New Year!

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