

First Grade Happenings

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday, Dec. 21: Early Release (1:15 pm)**
- **Dec. 22-Jan. 2: Winter Break**

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading*, we will address standard RL 1.3, which is describing characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details. Earlier in the year, we worked on identifying these components of a story in order to retell the story in a logical sequence. This standard, however, requires students to go beyond identifying each component and use details from the text to effectively describe them. We will read various stories in class and guide students to find these details so that they can meet this standard. Additionally, we will incorporate an author study of Jan Brett's work, which is a great tool for studying setting more closely.

In Letterland this week we will learn about double consonants at the ends of words. Specifically, we will study words ending with -ff, -ll, and -ss (e.g., cliff, bell, class), in Unit 10. Next week in Unit 11 we will learn about words that begin with a blend of "s" and another consonant. Some common s blends are sc, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, and sw. Examples of such words are scoot, skate, smile, snap, spot, stick, and swim.

We will begin a new unit in Social Studies this week, in which we address culture and history standards through a study of celebrations around the world. Students will learn about various holidays, traditions, and celebrations from other countries and cultures and will compare them to their own traditions. We are excited about this unit, because it is fun for the kids and it ties in so well with our global theme. at Wiley.

In *writing*, we will conclude our unit on opinion writing (standard W1.1) and begin working on standard W1.6, which says "With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question." We will use our social studies unit to address this standard. Students will write about their experiences with holidays, celebrations, and family traditions and will use provided sources to answer questions about

holidays and celebrations from countries around the world. As we address the demands of the standard, we will continue to work on capitalization, spelling, handwriting, spacing, and punctuation.

In *math*, we will continue working on addition and subtraction. Our emphasis will be on learning new strategies to add (Standard OA 1.8, "Add and Subtract within 20, using a variety of strategies.") Students have already learned numerous strategies - counting on from the larger number, using a number line or ten frames, drawing a picture, adding a single digit to 10, and turning a subtraction problem into an addition problem. Over the next two weeks, they will work on 3 additional strategies: 1) learning the doubles facts (1+1, 2+2, 3+3, etc.), 2) using doubles plus one (if I know $5+5=10$, then I can figure out that $5+6=11$), and 3) making a 10 to make adding easier (when presented with $8+7$, for example, we can decompose 7 into $5+2$, then add the 2 to 8 to make it a 10; then we can easily add the 5 to the 10 to get 15.) The goal is to give students multiple ways to solve addition and subtraction problems.



- Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Ask your child to describe the characters and/or setting. When he/she responds, ask for the evidence: "Why do you say that? Where does it say that in the text?"
- Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 10 this week and Unit 11 next week (lists are sent home on Mondays).
- Play a game involving dice or dominoes, in order to give your child practice at counting the dots quickly. Focus on memorizing the doubles facts!
- Complete the moon project to turn in next week, if you are doing it.
- Ask your child to tell you why someone would need a passport.

*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! – First Grade Team

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