

# First Grade Happenings

MARCH 4, 2019

Dear families,

Please check the calendar below for important dates and events coming up. It will be a busy month! Note that we have a field trip coming up and will need to collect payment if you have not paid already. Please take care of that as soon as possible. Also, we will need chaperones. If you have been approved to be a WCPSS volunteer/chaperone and can go with us to the museum, we need you! Please make sure you let us know if you can go.

Thank you!

First Grade Teachers



## REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, March 8 - Early Release (students dismiss 1:15 pm)
- Friday, March 22 - Fun Run
- Thursday, March 28 - Field Trip to the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC
- Friday, March 29 - Teacher Workday - no school for students

## THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading* this week, we will wrap up our unit on standard RI 1.4, which is using context clues to determine the meaning of new words. We will then begin teaching RI 1.8 - "With guidance and support, identify the reasons authors give to support ideas in text." This is a standard that applies only to informational text, not fiction. Students will learn to figure out the author's point. Then they will learn how to identify the evidence, or reasons, that the author gives to support his/her point. Students will have to be good little detectives, slowing down, looking closely at words, rereading, and choosing the parts of the text that support the author's point. One focus during this unit will be to find evidence in the text. Sometimes children rely on what

they already know (called "background knowledge") to answer questions. But the standard requires locating evidence in the text.

In Letterland, we will continue working on long vowel sounds. Unit 21 covers the "ai" and "ay" making the long /a/ sound and Unit 22 addresses "oa" and "ow" making the long /o/ sound. (The rule of thumb when 2 vowels are side by side is "When 2 vowels go walking, the first one does the talking, and it says its own name.") 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.

In *writing*, we will continue to work on our "How To" books. Students are thinking about the process of how to do something and breaking it down into steps that they can communicate to others.

In *math*, we just assessed subtracting multiples of ten from a 2-digit number and will begin a unit on shapes. Standard 1.G.1 states that students will "Distinguish between defining and non-defining attributes and create shapes with defining attributes." Defining attributes are those characteristics that truly make the shape what it is and therefore distinct from other shapes. Non-defining attributes are characteristics that may be true of the shape but do not distinguish it from other shapes - things like color and size. If I describe a shape as 'blue', that does not help me identify it or distinguish it from other shapes. But if I say "it has 4 sides that are all of equal length and 2 sets of the sides are parallel to one another", that should help me determine that it is a square. This unit is heavy on language and vocabulary. Students must understand "defining attribute" and "non-defining attribute" as well as know what the attributes are of the most common shapes. We will describe and create both 2D and 3D shapes, including: circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, hexagons, trapezoids, cubes, rectangular prisms, cones, cylinders, and spheres.

In *social studies*, we will continue our unit on economics and geography. Students have so far learned about goods and services, needs and wants, and why people have jobs. Over the next 2 weeks, we will transition to the geography portion of the unit and focus on reading and creating maps of places that are familiar to us (bedroom, classroom, playground), using cardinal directions (north, south, east, west) and map symbols.



- **Read for 10-15 minutes each night.** Help your child practice finding evidence in text. Ask questions about what was read and help your child look through the text to find evidence for his/her answer.
- **Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 21 this week and Unit 22 next week.** Assessments will be given on Fridays.
- **Play "I Spy" with shapes in your home.** Examples: "I spy a 3D shape that has a circle on each end and would roll if I put it on its side" (could refer to a can of food, a glass or

tumbler, etc.) or "I spy something that is flat, has 2 long, straight sides and 2 short, straight sides" (could be a window, a cabinet door, etc.) Avoid using color or size words.

- **Ask your child to explain the difference between wants and needs and give you examples of things you need in order to live and things you want.**

*\*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