

FIRST GRADE NEWSLETTER

Ms. Balarezo, Ms. Kreiger, Ms. Maisonet, Ms. Modica, Ms. Taylor

February 2019

READING

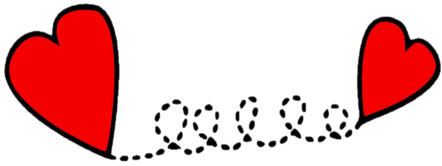
We have just started a new unit "Readers Get to Know Characters by Performing Their Books".

In this unit, students are reading using three different lenses:

1. Reading by getting to "know a character"
2. Reading with partners to pretend they are a character and perform books in clubs to "become character experts"
3. Giving the gift of reading ("performing" or acting out books)

Students are continuing to use comprehension strategies, build their reading stamina, and will develop a sense of story elements (character, setting, and story events) throughout this unit. This character unit emphasizes a lot on "role-playing" to really let our students dive into their characters. When children take on their character's "role" they are not only learning to read with meaning, but also bringing the character and book to life! As they read independently, in partnerships, or book clubs, they will take on different personas and learn new lessons, from different character perspectives, and the "life" of their characters. This work will help students better understand characters more deeply, while continuing to use all sources of "good reading" information (meaning, picture clues, comprehend, solve tricky words etc) to help them strengthen their reading habits.

Readers Go on Adventures:	Readers Meet Characters Along the Way!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take a sneak peek• Keep track of when and where• Predict what might happen next• Retell the important parts (mark pages to remember)• Reread to notice more• Connect parts of the story together	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about the character• Pay attention to other characters, too• Reread to learn more about the characters• Bring the character to life• Notice when feelings change, then change your voice



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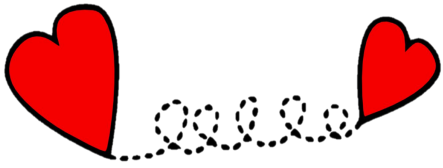
WRITING

We have begun our new unit on **OPINION WRITING**. In this unit, students will learn to sort, rank, categorize, explain, convince, persuade, and argue different ideas. The first part of the unit is built on the notion that six-year olds collect things such as rocks, stickers, trading cards, etc. Students will reflect on the things they collect and share their collections with their peers in class. Students will learn how to use writing to think and "talk" about the stuff of their lives. Specifically, they will learn to review their collections and to make choices about which item in that collection is the best, writing defenses for those judgements. This will **become their introduction to writing reviews**, the focus of this unit.

Convincing Your Reader:	Ways to Spell Words:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write your opinion• Give lots of reasons• Add details<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example• "Talk Back"<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I disagree...because...• Use sparkly words• Quote experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Say it, slide it, hear it, write it• Use snap words• Listen for little words inside• Use words you know• Write it part by part• Listen for syllables (write sounds, use a vowel)• Ska-ska-skate across the word

MATH

We are beginning our new unit *Collecting and Organizing: The Number System*. The idea of taking inventory is brought to the classroom, where children work to count and label baskets of supplies and materials. The discussion focuses on organizing in groups and skip counting, then specifically on groups of ten. The concept of place value is developed as the children pack objects into groups of ten and study patterns in the data. There are opportunities to deepen their understanding by packing in fives and playing games that focus on groups of ten, and there are lessons that use the ten-frame as a visual model of five and ten. Next, the inventory context is extended to include



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ordering more classroom supplies as a way to develop and support addition strategies, which include jumping to friendly numbers (multiples of ten) and jumping by ten. As children pack and count groups of items, they begin to unitize-to count groups and objects at the same time. Children develop an understanding of place value as they construct the idea that the number of packs and loose items is related to the total number of objects and that the numbers change when items are added to make full packs or when a pack of ten is added.

(Context For Learning- Collecting and Organizing)

SCIENCE

Students are still investigating the Animal and Plant Defenses. Students are exploring how living things survive and how their offspring survive. All living things must meet their basic survival needs, including getting food, water and oxygen and to avoid being eaten by other animals. Additionally, the body parts of animals and plants function in ways that enable living things to meet their survival needs. Students are currently developing an understanding on how animal and plant structures help support living organisms.

Exploration:

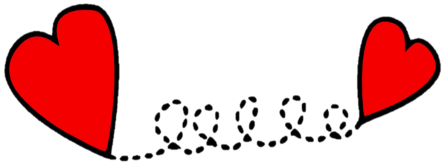
Students are creating models of their defenses using science vocabulary.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

SEL Community Service Project: (Now through February 14th)

First graders are collecting new and gently used books. We were given a \$200 spending allowance (for the grade) from Riley's Way Foundation. We will purchase books, but any additional book donations are greatly appreciated! First graders are going to buddy up to wrap the books and make cards for the children in the hospital.

Choose Love Curriculum



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Unit 2: Forgiveness

- Caring
- Friendship
- **Fairness**

Book of the Month- We Shall Overcome: The story of a Song

By: Debby Levy

The goal is to build, maintain, and sustain healthy relationships. Students will model, practice, and participate in helping each other forgive. This mission will help cultivate a respectful, honest, and positive school community.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 1st: Learn With Your Child (9:30am)

February 5th: NO SCHOOL (Lunar New Year)

February 14th: Valentine's Day, 100th day of School & Schoolwide Bake Sale

February 18-24th: NO SCHOOL (Winter Recess)

FIRST GRADERS IN ACTION!

