

Kindergarten

PS 33 Chelsea Prep -- February 2020

Curriculum Updates

Reading Workshop - During the beginning of February, students will continue with the “**Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles**” unit. The final bend of this unit focuses on “graduating” onto bigger and more difficult texts. Students will be relying much less on patterns while reading and will be looking for endings on already-familiar snap words (i.e. *plays, looking, comes, jumped*). We also focus on deepening comprehension of texts by bringing “Extra Strengths” to our “Book Talk Power” and focusing on both literal and higher-level (“why” and “how”) inferential questioning. After February break, students will begin the “**Avid Readers**” unit. This unit sets up the children to become less reliant on teachers and encourages them to apply their strategies across multiple contexts. We focus on ensuring that our reading skills have been internalized and automatic and continue to immerse the students in books, poetry and songs, while encouraging students to take more responsibility in making decisions about what and how to read.

Phonics - The final bend of the “**Vowel Power**” unit progresses from a focus on CVC and monosyllabic words to vowels in longer words. Students learn that every syllable in every word has a vowel and we are reintroduced to long vowels. After break, we will begin the “**Playing with Phonics**” unit. In Bend I of this unit, students are first introduced to blends. This unit challenges students to tackle longer words and to begin thinking of the sounds they hear in these words as word parts rather than single letters.

Writing Workshop - The final bends of the “**How-To**” unit focus on writing lots of “How-To” books while keeping readers in mind. Students write books about things they have learned throughout the day and have opportunities to write more deeply on any “How-To” topic. Students also learn to write introductions and conclusions to clarify a topic new to readers. After break, we will move into the “**Persuasive Writing**” unit, during which students learn that they can write texts to make their own classroom, their school, and their world into a better place. Teachers ask the kindergarteners to look at the world around them in new ways- seeing not just what is, but what *could be*. Students reflect on the troubles they see around the classroom and school and think, “What could make things better?” and to then do all kinds of writing to help make a change.

Math - During the current math unit, students will continue to develop ideas of place value and the structure of our base-ten number system and the meaning of operations with whole numbers. Students use both interactive math games and various classroom objects including popsicle sticks, cubes, and blocks to measure, count, and compare. After break, we’ll begin the **Collect, Count and Measure** unit, which continues to develop students’ ability to count and represent sets of objects over 10 and decompose numbers in various ways.

Important Dates

February 14 - Sesame Street Live

February 17-21 - Winter Recess

February 26 - Field Trip to Museum of Natural History