



FIRST GRADE NEWSLETTER

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

November 2018

READING

This month, we are very excited to start a brand new unit in reading! We will all become "Reading Detectives" to solve mystery words in books. We are learning to become great reading detectives by applying different reading strategies. We are learning to pause and solve difficult words by studying words closely and using snap words like the real detectives.

Please remember that the BEST way to support your child in reading is to continue reading at home as much as possible. When your child reads his/her just right books to you every night, encourage them to stop and to solve the mystery words independently, applying various reading strategies:

HOW TO BE A WORD DETECTIVE:

- Notice a problem and stop to solve it
- Look closely from start to end
- Use everything you know
- Do a s-l-o-w check
- Break long words into smaller parts
- Pay attention to the beginning of the word
- Break the ending off
- Look out for vowel teams
- Use parts of words you know
- Watch out for unusual words

USING SNAP WORDS TO READ:

- Read words you know in a snap
- Read words you know and think, "What would make sense here?"
- Ask, "Does this remind me of another word I know?"
- Turn new words into snap words
- Scoop up words to make your reading smooth



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WRITING

Now that students have completed their first writing unit on Small Moments, we have launched a new unit in writing known as, "How-To". In our How-To unit, students will be tapping into their inner expertise. Furthermore, they will generate a variety of procedural tasks that they know how to do, and in turn creating their own "how-to" books to teach others about their topic. Some examples of how-to topics are...

- Cooking a recipe
- Brushing your teeth
- Growing a new plant
- Making a new friend
- Taking care of a pet
- Tying your shoelaces

Additionally, students will consider their audience as well as their purpose for writing by studying mentor texts as models. Students will think about sequence and transition words, and students will continue to practice editing their work for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Our How-To unit will also help scaffold students into our next writing unit on creating informational chapter books.

How To Writing Process:

1. Think of a topic
2. Plan
 - a. Touch and tell across pages
 - b. Sketch and label across pages
3. Write the words
 - a. How can I teach my reader?

Writing Strategies:

- Adding tips/suggestions
- Adding definitions
- Adding labels/diagrams
- Adding warnings



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- Adding POP out words
- Adding ellipses
- Punctuation (!, ?, .)

MATH

We have just began the unit "How Many of Each and How Many in All". This unit focuses on students' ideas about counting and quantity, place value and structure of the base-10 number system, the meaning of operations with whole numbers, the development of computational fluency and generalizations about numbers and operations (*Investigations*).

In every PS 33 classroom, "Number Talks" are an essential routine that reinforce the skill of subitizing, in other words, being able to see the parts of a whole without counting one by one. You can support your child at home by playing board games with dice and encouraging your child to look for groups instead of counting individual objects.

STRATEGIES & FOCI in this unit:

- Counting on/ Counting back
- Adding /Subtracting
- Composing numbers/ Decomposing numbers
- Decomposing numbers into two or more parts
- Addition with more than two numbers
- Meaning of the equal sign
- Counting and comparing larger quantities
- Number composition
- Place value
- Visualizing/representing/solving story problems

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, we are currently studying why communities are important and discussing how they are similar and different. Students examine communities and develop an awareness of cultural diversity



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within American culture. Students will continue studying how their own family history is important and influences who they are. Also, they will study how families and communities grow and change over time.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Book of the Month: The Spiffiest Giant in Town By: Julia Donaldson

Unit 1-Compassion (same focus unit from October)

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Giving

Compassion has two components: the first is empathy, which means putting yourself in someone else's shoes and trying to feel what that person feels, and the second is action, which means helping someone in need and performing acts of kindness without expecting anything in return. Compassion is when one understands how another person feels and takes action to alleviate that person's suffering. Students apply their empathy and communication skills to support one another through compassionate action. Humans are wired for connection and compassion. The activities help students make choices that benefit their minds, hearts, bodies, and relationships. (www.jesselewischooselove.org).

TEACHING ASSISTANT SPOTLIGHT:

TA's, Ms. Castro and Ms. Jessica have been assisting in our classrooms to support students and teachers. They have been working 1:1 with students, running small groups and helping with book shopping. They also help us make copies, prepare materials for projects and send/collect notices from the children's folders. We are grateful for their help and feel lucky to have them working in our classrooms. They have been a huge asset to our classroom communities!

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 2: PTA Meeting (8:40) and Learn With Your Child (9:30)

November 6: Election Day (NO SCHOOL)

November 8: Atlantic Theater Field Trip



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November 12: Veterans Day (NO SCHOOL)

November 15: Parent/Teacher Conferences (Half day for students- 11:40am dismissal)

November 21: Publishing Party (ALL classes)

November 22-25: Thanksgiving Recess

November 28: California Pizza Kitchen (1-217 & 1-220)

November 29: California Pizza Kitchen (1-216 & 1-218)