



# First Grade News



P.S. 140Q The Edward K. Ellington School

December, 2016

Dear Parents,

## LANGUAGE ARTS

This month in ReadyGen, the children will focus on opinion writing and using evidence from various texts to support their answers. The children will be involved in a performance based assessment on writing an opinion piece about being a good classroom citizen. In the beginning of December, we will be involved in a close read of non-fiction books about schools around the world. The texts are It's Back to School We Go and Going to School. The children will compare and contrast their own school experiences with the schools around the world. We will focus on Standard W.1.2, Informational writing. The children will name the topic, supply facts about the topic, and provide a sense of closure. Please be sure to talk with your child about the various texts we are reading in class.

All classes use **Fundations** to teach the necessary phonics skills for your children to be successful learners. We will continue to work on building phonemic awareness and phonics skills in each lesson. The children have been enjoying the daily lessons in Fundations. Building foundational skills is a major component of the Common Core Literacy standards. The skills are the building blocks for future success in reading and writing, a clear focus for our first grade classes.

We are beginning to learn about blending digraphs. Digraphs are ch, sh, th, wh and ck. As in **chop**, **shop**, **with**, **what**, and **duck**.

## MATH

We are beginning Chapter 3 in GO MATH. This is addition and subtraction strategies. In this chapter, we will learn about addition strategies such as counting on, adding doubles, and adding in any order.

*Home Activity-*

Have your child find objects that show doubles facts. For example, he or she may find a pair of shoes to show  $1 + 1$ , a carton of eggs to show  $6 + 6$ , or a six-pack of juice cans to show  $3 + 3$ . Ask your child to say those doubles facts. Add another item to one of the groups, and have your child name the doubles plus one fact.

*Vocabulary*

**Doubles-** Two equal groups make a doubles fact.  $2 + 2 = 4$

**Doubles plus one**  $-2 + 2 = 4$ , so  $2 + 3$  is 1 more, or  $5$ .  $2 + 3 = 5$

Practicing daily fluencies in math is essential to help children think at higher levels. Please work with your children every night to help build automaticity in their basic math facts. We will be sure to engage the children in activities that help take their knowledge of the basic facts and apply them to complex problem solving scenarios. Our first graders are doing well, as we move through the first grade math curriculum.

During class time, use the problem of the day to challenge our children on various topics. The problem of the day is a daily activity that is helping build strong math and reading skills in our children.



# First Grade News



## Science and Social Studies

We will continue learn how families grow and change over time. The students are comparing and contrasting families today and families a long time ago. They have been working on their family trees and presenting them in class.

Our science unit will focus on **Properties of Matter**. Students observe and describe the three states of matter- solids, liquids and gases and the differences between the three. We will read informational texts about these states of matter, an important aspect of reading and writing across various sources. We will also be conducting hands-on experiments. Be sure to ask your child about what they are learning in science.

## Reading Fluency in All Content Areas

At this point in the year, we are starting to focus on fluency in reading. In order for your child to be fluent, they must know their high-frequency words. Please take some time each night to read with your child. Have basic discussions about vocabulary words in our books or various newspaper articles. Showing your children that reading is important to you will have a major impact on their reading development.

Every child was be given a password to sign on to **I ready, MYON, and MATHLETICS**. Please let your child use the programs on a daily basis. It will be incorporated in their homework. If you are having trouble logging in or do not have access to a computer or tablet, please let us know.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

December 9<sup>th</sup>- Santa Clause is Coming To Town!! Graywork Group Toy Donation (Shhh....)!

December 21- First grade trip to see Charlie Brown Christmas

December 23<sup>rd</sup>- January 3<sup>rd</sup>- No School- Happy Holidays!