



First Grade News



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

January, 2017

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope the year brings you happiness and health to your entire family. We are looking forward to getting a lot of work done in our classrooms this year. Please make sure you are reviewing the homework and reading logs each night with your child. When your child misses homework, it shows in their classwork. Thank you to all parents to go above and beyond with their child.

Please review spelling words daily. A test will be given every Friday.

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.

ELA

The students have been working in **small groups** during the 90 minute literacy block. There are five groups focused on the same learning target. Each group will work on a specific task.

We have academic vocabulary, close reading strategies, project based, computer, and guided reading groups.

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 **global citizen**. In the beginning of January, 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.

MATH

First grade classes started Chapter 4 this week. In this chapter, I will learn about subtraction strategies and how to solve subtraction word problems.

A new Vocabulary word is **count back**. It is a way to subtract by counting back from the larger number. Have your child practice counting from 1 to 8 and then from 8 to 1. Display numbers 1–8 on a piece of poster board or notebook paper. Each day, work with your child to solve simple subtraction problems by counting back 1, 2, or 3 using the list of numbers.

Our students have been working in **small groups** for math. The groups are fluency, problem solving, computers and guided math.

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

We also 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 skills in our children. It uses skills that have been taught or a topic we are currently working on.

FUNDATIONS

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. We are currently in unit 4.

We are learning **Bonus letters** - ff ll ss and sometimes zz, **Glued sounds**-all and punctuation-explanation point and quotation marks.

Please make sure the foundation reading passages are read every night.

SCIENCE

Unit 2-Properties of Matter

Unit Overview: Students observe and describe the three states of matter. Students describe, categorize, compare, and measure observable physical properties of matter and objects. Students' initial efforts in performing these processes may yield simple descriptions and sketches, which may lead to increasingly more detailed drawings and richer verbal descriptions.

Matter exists in three states: solid, liquid, gas.

Solids have a definite shape and volume.

Liquids do not have a definite shape but have a definite volume.

Gases do not hold their shape or volume.

Social Studies

This month we are beginning a new unit- What is a community? A citizen is a member of a community or group. Students are citizens of their local and global community.

Citizens protect and respect their own communities

- Community workers (police, teachers, etc.) respect the rights of citizens
- Citizens are members of the larger world community (global citizens)
- Global citizens protect and respect the larger world community

Every child was 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.



i-Ready User Log In

Log In

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 16- Dr, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School