

Miss O'Connell's Class News: October

Learning Focuses:

Reading:

This month our whole class will be reading/ listening to Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin. It is an exciting mystery with which we will focus on making connections: text-self, text-text, and text-world. We will be answering both text dependent questions as well as comprehension based questions after every chapter.

Reading groups are in full swing. We are feeling so lucky to have 5 teachers actively running groups this year: Mrs. Benoit, Miss Armenti, Mrs. Higgins, Miss Lizotte, and myself. We meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 8:30-9:15. Every group has been thoughtfully compiled with consideration to reading level as well as data from formative assessments. Each group is homogeneous in nature so that students are working with like-minded peers that share similar goals. The groups are fluid. This means that students can be moved from group to group as they continue to show growth.

Please ask your child about their reading teacher, about the book they are reading, and about the skills they are working on mastering. We are so excited to watch them form "good reader habits" over the next few months.

English Language Arts:

This month we will continue our review of nouns:

common- girl, restaurant, book

proper- McDonalds, Dr. O'Neil, Worcester

singular- puppy, glass, map

plural- puppies, glasses, maps

pronoun- he, she, it, they, them, we, us.

Writing:

This month we will continue to focus on expository (non-fiction) texts and

write essays based on content specific questions. We learned to consider the effectiveness of our own writing by using color coding:

- Red from head
- Blue from book

We discussed how every body paragraph needs to be balanced with both personal voice and also facts from the text.

We will continue to work on planning, using graphic organizers, strong introductions (and hooks), having balanced body paragraphs, and being good editors.

Math:

MULTIPLICATION!

Key tips to remembering the multiplication properties:

Commutative Property of Multiplication- you can multiply in any order and the answer is the same: $3 \times 2 = 2 \times 3$ (*In our class, we have a car called the Commutative Car. The reason- I commute to and from school each day.*)

Identity Property of Multiplication- Multiply any number by 1 and the answer is the original number: $5 \times 1 = 5$. (*In our class, we have a mirror to help the children see their identity. You are always the same beautiful YOU.*)

Zero Property of Multiplication- Any number multiplied by 0 is zero. (*In our class, we have a super hero cape that will fly around the room to remind students that zero is our hero- because any number multiplied by zero is zero. We chant ZERO IS OUR HERO!*).

Distributive Property of Multiplication- This property helps us break up hard multiplication problems into easier facts. It is always a good idea to start with an array. If you have 7×3 and you can't find the answer, you can break the 7 into $5 + 2$. The new problem is: $(5 \times 3) + (2 \times 3)$ giving you $15 + 6$, which equals 21. This strategy is helpful in solving those facts that you just can't remember. (*In our class, we have a deck of cards. This deck shows us that we can take a BIG array and split it up to find the product just as you would distribute the cards.*)

House Keeping:

Weather:

The seasons are changing and the weather can be unpredictable. Often, it is cold in the morning but heats up significantly by the afternoon. Layering may be the best option for appropriate clothing. Wearing a sweater/sweatshirt with another shirt underneath is often the best bet.

Word of the month:

OWNERSHIP

“Education is what people do to you. Learning is what you do to yourself.” – Joi Ito

Thank you for all of your support,
Miss O’Connell