Mrs. Jenoski’s Newsletter
November 2020

Important Dates
November 11th - No School Veteran’s Day Observance
November 13th - End of Quarter 1 Marking Period
November 25-27th - Thanksgiving Break

NEWSFLASH!

You would not believe how independent your children are becoming! See Saw Literacy Centers and guided reading is happening two or three days a week, and your child is engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. They will be learning word-solving strategies, practicing fluency, as well as focusing on the most important parts of a text. Guided reading books are posted weekly on Clever under the Guided Reading Book tab. Please be sure that your child is reading at least 10-15 minutes each night aloud to you, as well as rereading their guided reading book.

Each week we are introducing or reinforcing new spelling principles, along with five new word wall words. The spelling principles are reinforced with word sorts, locating the word pattern within poetry and texts, building the words with magnetic letter tiles, and writing the words. Please don’t worry too much about conventional spelling at this time, we are focusing on the sounds and patterns only. By learning these patterns and sounds, your child will begin to recognize them when reading. Looking for parts of words you know, can help you problem solve words you don’t know.

We will be scheduling Parent-Teacher Conferences in the near future. At the conference, I will discuss your child’s strengths and any areas of academic concern, as well as share all fall benchmark assessments with you. Be on the lookout for a sign-up once the date is set.

Birthdays
There are no birthdays this month

Math Tip: When reading a story problem, spend time visualizing what the “situation” is. That means, “What is going on in this story?” Ask yourself, “What do I already know?”

Literacy Tip: Encourage your child to look carefully at the beginning and ending letters in words. Often times children focus on the beginning letter(s) when problem-solving, and neglect to sweep their eyes across the entire word to confirm.
Virtual Reminders
- Please be sure your child arrives on-time each morning. School begins promptly at 9:05.
- When we transition to literacy centers on See Saw, your child needs to turn their screen and microphone off as a courtesy to others. They should be completing their center work as well as enjoying a working snack.
- Guided reading groups will be rotating during that time so please stay near your device so that you don’t miss this small group instructional time.
- Please make sure your child has their materials ready for the day, and that they are in a chair facing the camera.
- It is important that your child’s camera stays on. If you are not comfortable with this, you can change the background to blurred in the settings. This will allow me to see your child only, and nothing in the space they are working in.

Writing:
SRSD continues to focus on informative writing. Your children are beginning to recognize parts of TIDE, as well as what makes a good topic sentence. We continue to explore various non-fiction texts to see how the “experts” do this. We now know that a good topic sentence includes naming the topic and hooking the reader with a wonder, statement, or a question. We continue to use the mnemonics POW and TIDE to teach informative writing. Ask your child to sing the POW and TIDE song to you...it’s a favorite!

Reading: We continue our study on fiction and non-fiction texts. We now know many nonfiction text features and why they are important to read. Some of the text features we are learning are Table of Contents, Heading, Photographs, Captions, Bold Faced Words, and even Glossary! This month we will learn about citizenship and qualities that make a good leader. We will use characters from the Tortoise and the Hare and The Three Little Pigs, to vote on who would make a better leader and why. We will also spend some time exploring the Sun, Moon, patterns in the sky, and why we have seasons. We will learn about the First Thanksgiving, Native Americans and the Pilgrims.

Math: In the coming weeks, we will begin using the online Pearson Realize lesson components for independent practice and games. This is an effective way for me to see trends within topics, as well as individual strengths and weaknesses for each lesson. The program automatically generates reteaching based on your child’s performance. This is certainly a great way to continue working on skills your child may need more practice with. Additionally, in the coming weeks, unit assessments will be taken online, so it will be good to become more comfortable with this platform.