



# Mrs. Jenoski's Newsletter January 2022

## Important Dates

- January 3rd - Return to School
- January 3rd - Progress Reports Sent Home
- January 7th - Fun Friday  
New Year's Aspirations
- January 13th - Virtual PTO Meeting 5 pm
- January 17th - No School  
MLK Day

## Classroom News



Happy New Year! Wishing your family a year filled with health and happiness! I want to take a moment to thank you once again for the generous gifts and cards you gave before the holiday break. It was so thoughtful of you and very much appreciated.

I hope you take a moment this New Year to reflect on the progress and growth of your child so far this year. As you know first grade is truly a year of "many firsts", and you should be proud of the hard work your child is doing each and every day in the classroom.

Now that it is January, we are officially "Second Graders in Training!" This is a great time of year to allow your child to take more responsibility and ownership over their learning. Independence is key to a successful transition into second grade, and we will build that slowly. This may look like preparing your daily materials by yourself, checking your green folder, ensuring your guided reading book and bag are packed, and practicing your word wall words daily. You will be amazed at how quickly your child will adapt to these changes!

## Birthdays

January 14 - Savannah



**Math Tip:** Students are encouraged to move beyond just counting on and counting back. They are learning how to "make ten" as they add two or three numbers. Making a ten is a more efficient way to count.

**Literacy Tip:** Students are learning how to summarize a text. This can be very difficult to not tell *every detail* they remember about a story. **Somebody** (character), **Wanted** (what did the character want), **But** (problem), **So** (ending) is a great way to begin summarizing.



## Guided Reading Books

This is a good time of year to reflect on your at-home routines in place for guided reading books. You will begin to see that your child's reading progress will significantly improve as they now take more ownership over using strategies that they have been taught and practiced over the past several months. It is expected that your child reread their guided reading book every night aloud. Rereading a familiar book has many benefits to a growing reader.



Familiar books are books that the children have read before. It is important that they read books that are independent over and over again to practice reading fluently, which means that reading should sound smooth, not choppy. It should sound like talking, with expression and intonation. Children need to practice familiar books many times before their reading sounds quick, expressive and like spoken language. Good fluency leads to good comprehension, and an easier transition to the next reading level and confidence.



## What We're Learning

**Reading:** We will continue exploring folktales! We will discover the elements that make up a folktale such as it was told a long time ago, the number three has importance, animal and plants can have human-like characteristics, and there is usually a trickster.

Through various readings, we will discover that the fox is a trickster in most folktales. We will be able to read and find evidence of this. However, some of the children may not agree that the fox is always bad; after all, he does have to feed his family! As a culminating assessment, we will hold a fox debate in class. The children will need to decide whether or not the fox is a trickster. They will choose a side, gather evidence that supports their opinion from various texts and resources, and try to persuade their opponent that they are correct in their thinking. They will then write an opinion piece that supports their side.



**Writing:** In SRSD, we are wrapping up our work on TIDE Informative Writing. After closely reading a text, your children can now pull-out content specific words that we call "pazazzi or million dollar words". These words should be used in their writing as they provide detail and show a deeper understanding of the topic.

Our next writing focus will be Opinion Writing. We will continue to use TIDE as a mnemonic and provide reasons to support our thinking. Reasons can be from the head or from text evidence. We will use topic sentences that start with "In my opinion", "I think", or "I feel."