

News from Mrs. Barnett's Classroom

August 30, 2019



Weekly Highlights

Handwriting-This week we worked on both uppercase and lowercase letters. Students have been working on writing posture and forming their letters with the correct letter formation. We have also been reminding students to start their letters at the top.

Daily 5- Students have been building their stamina in Read to Self, Work on Writing and Read to Someone. Our mini lessons this week have focused on Checking for Understanding and Back Up and Reread. I will send home a parent link explaining how to work on these comprehension strategies when reading with your child. In Work on Writing, the students have a number of options to write about. We are looking for magazines that have pictures of nature in them to be used as writing prompts. Students will cut out a picture and glue it in their journal and then write about it. Please let me know if you are interested in donating any magazines to be used for Work on Writing.

Writer's Workshop- We started Writer's Workshop by reading the small moment story "The Night of the Veggie Monster" by George McClements. This is a fun true story demonstrating one small moment in detail. Students then came up with their own small moment stories and were off and writing. Later in the week we focused on how to plan a story and write across pages. Then we focused on taking the details from our sketches and adding more to our pages. I am so impressed with how well the students are doing in writing. They are all very invested in their writing.

Building Community- We work on building community on a daily basis. We start our day a Calm Classroom exercise and then move on to our morning meeting. Students check in to let us know how they are doing and then they greet each other in different languages. We end our meeting with setting personal goals for the day. At the end of the day we reflect on how our day went and offer gratitude and appreciations to each other. Later in the week we learned more about our classmates by playing "Find a Friend" Bingo. Students walked around and asked each other different questions to find people to add to their Bingo page. They really enjoyed learning about each other!

Math Highlights

We started Unit 1 Numbers All Around Us this week. The first module focused on counting forwards and backwards by 1's, 2's, and 5's on the number line and exploring counting patterns on a number grid. We constructed paper twin-pops and arranged them in rows (Adding one more in each successive row) and made observations about the patterns they see. Students created a graph for favorite popsicle flavors and discussed the data. On Thursday we played a fun game called Flash and Build where teacher briefly displays tally mark cards and asks students to build and discuss what they see on each card. Students also had an opportunity throughout the week to work with different math manipulatives in workplaces. We introduced polydrons and geoboards. We are still working on using a #1 voice (whisper) while working in our workplaces.

Important Dates

- **Monday, Sept 2nd- No School/Labor Day**
- **Tuesday, Sept 3rd- Bus Evacuation Drill**
- **Wed Sept 4th & Thur Sept 5th- 2nd Gr NWEA testing**
- **Mon - Fri Sept 9-13th- Attendance Week**
- **Tuesday, Sept 10th- Curriculum Night** in the gym 6-7pm (we hope to see you there)

Important Information and Friendly Reminders

- **2nd graders** will be taking the **NWEA test on Wednesday, Sept 4th and Thursday Sept 5th after lunch**. Please be sure that your child gets a good night's sleep to help ensure their success on these tests.
- **First Trimester Sight Words** will be posted on my webpage and seesaw. Your child should work on these for this trimester. If they can read them all, the next step is to practice spelling them.
- **Extra Socks needed-** if you have any single socks at home that need a home, we will take them. They are great erasers and hold markers. :)
- Please be sure that your child's **carpool number** is clearly posted in your car. This will help carpool run smoothly.
- Please be sure to sign up for **Seesaw**. I will be posting pictures on a weekly basis. This is a great tool to open up communication with your child and to talk about their day.
- The week of **Sept 9-13 is Attendance Week**. We would like to encourage you to make sure that your child is in school this week and all other weeks. We will be celebrating each day with a specific theme. I will send out the daily themes closer to the date above.
- Please be sure to send in your child's **assignment notebook daily**. We will fill it out in the afternoon each day. Thank you!
- Your child should have an **extra set of clothing** in their locker. Please send it in a gallon ziploc bag if they do not already have it. Thank you!
- Please be sure that your child **wears closed toe shoes every day** to school. Flip flops are not good for going out on nature walks. Thank you for your cooperation!
- I do have an open door policy for my classroom. Parents are welcome to help in the classroom after filling out the volunteer form (found in powerschool) and signing in at the office for lunch/recess at 11:10-12:10. We prefer a 24 hour notice of when you are planning to visit. There will also be other opportunities for you to come into the classroom. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!
- Our class will have **lunch at 11:10** and **snack at 1:30**. Please remember that any nut food will need to be eaten at lunch time as well as any food that needs to be heated up. Your child will have enough time to eat a small snack at 1:30.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.