Math Workshop

In math, we are continuing to develop our understanding of multiplication and division. We have been having some great math talk identifying the patterns and discussing all of the relationships we notice and properties being applied. We are also spending time with word problems. Not only are the children asked to solve multi-step problems, but also mixed operation word problems. In other words, they need to know when to use each of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)!

**Please help your child to practice their multiplication facts!** Each Thursday we take a short multiplication fact quiz. Even studying flash cards for just 5 minutes each night can be helpful!

Reader’s Workshop

This week we begin a new unit of study. As much as the kids LOVE non-fiction, many of them are excited to return to the world of fiction. We will be learning with characters using book studies, book clubs and book series. At the beginning of the year we learned how to describe character traits and we learned lessons with characters. This unit allows students to look at how characters change over time (their thoughts, feeling, actions and motivations). They will also learn to compare and contrast texts. It will be an exciting time in the world of literature in our hallway!

Writer’s Workshop

We’ve had some great conversations about the power of persuasive writing. Throughout the quarter we’ll be learning about strategies for writing effective opinion pieces. Recently we’ve been working on writing book recommendations. Students are really excited to be learning how to organize their opinions into strong writing pieces.

If your child is full of opinions at home, remember: They need to give you multiple facts and/or reasons to support their opinion. “I don’t like it” or “I don’t want to” is not sufficient ☺

Word Study

Your child took their second bi-weekly spelling quiz this past week. Our second quiz will take place this Friday. For each quiz we will practice a specific spelling pattern. Students have two copies of their spelling words, one to keep at school and one to keep in their homework folder. Please help your child practice spelling their words.

Below is great online resource for spelling practice. You can use the resource online or download the App! Students can practice with their own word lists.

<http://www.spellingcity.com/>

Science & Social Studies

Upcoming topics of study:

* How transportation in North Carolina has changed over time
* Considering the varying perspective of colonial settlers and native Americans and what impact they had on each other
* Civil rights
* How the development of RTP has impacted Wake County

Our trip to the Joel Lane House was a great start to our study of Colonial North Carolina! This week, we are looking forward to another exciting week in social studies. This week we will have video conferences with the History Museum. The program we are doing is called From Moccasins to Motorcars. We will be studying change over time with hands-on artifacts from the museum.

On Friday we will get a first-hand look at what life was like for the colonists and early settlers when we have several reenactors come for a visit. We will get to see authentic clothing from that time period and hear legends that the early settlers would have told to explain the world around them. Please have your child dress warmly on Friday. The presentation will take place outside since the reenactors will also have a small forge to demonstrate how people would have created their own tools.

Homework Update:

You’ve noticed that each week as a part of reading homework, students read a passage or text and answer related questions. We want students to be comfortable reading a variety of genres and learning how to comprehend these texts. Students have learned how to use RUNNERS. This is a step-by-step approach for working through reading passages. Check out your teacher’s website for the RUNNERS document. It will help you to see how your child should be proving their work – even when reading a text and answering questions based on the text.

Important Upcoming Dates:

* Friday, November 22 – Colonial Reenactment
* Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 29 – Thanksgiving Break
* Thursday, December 12 – Winter Thanks
* Friday, December 13 – Star Lab
* December 21 Winter Break starts