**Happy New Year!**

It was so great to see all the students back at Wiley last Thursday and Friday!

**Math Workshop**

Our math classes have started a two-week unit on data and graphing. Students have begun learning about different types of graphs (vertical bar graphs, horizontal bar graphs, pictographs, line plots, etc.). They will be able to create and analyze graphs and data. We will focus on how to create the scale for each graph and how to represent different values in whole numbers, halves or quarters. Lastly, the students will be able to answer one and two-step problems related the graphs.

This week the students will continue to take our weekly multiplication quizzes. Ask your child what set of facts they are working on this week! Please keep helping them at home with memorizing their facts!

**Reader’s Workshop**

This past week we began studying non-fiction or informational texts! This week the students will be learning how to locate the main idea and supporting details of a text. Students have learned about text features since kindergarten. In third grade they are expected to use the appropriate text feature vocabulary and to apply these features. Informational texts are complex; the text features help us to make sense of the article, text or information. Students need to know how to use and apply these features.

As we continue with our study of informational texts, students will be learning how to:

* identify the who/what, where, when, why and how of an article
* locate the main idea and supporting details or key events
* figure out content vocabulary based on the clues in the text

Please help your child to spend some time reading informational texts! We incorporate a lot of science and social studies content into reading instruction. Check out this week's homework passage about the Earth and Mars! Don't forget that there are excellent informational texts on Big Universe as well.

**Writer’s Workshop**

Children will begin researching and composing informational writing pieces this week. Again, we integrate our science unit, Objects in the Sky, into our literacy instruction. The students will be researching the moon, the constellations and the planets. They will be learning how to:

* Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aid comprehension.
* Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
* Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
* Provide a concluding statement or section.

**Word Study**

The students will learn about short and long u words this week Their quiz will be on January 17th. Students will be bringing home their word list to study from.

**Science & Social Studies**

Students will be choosing a research project on either a constellation or a planet this week. We will also start exploring shadows and the sun.

Students will:

* **Recognize the major components and patterns observed in the earth/moon/sun system.**
* **Explain the causes of day and night and phases of the moon.**
* **Recognize that the earth is part of a system called the solar system that includes a sun (a star), planets and many moons and that the Earth is the third planet from the sun in our solar system.**

Please make sure your child is completing their nightly moon tracking calendar. Please help them to shade in what the moon looks like each night. It may be helpful to keep your child's tracker on the refrigerator. Sometimes the moon will not be visible. On these nights, feel free to use an app that you have or: <http://www.wral.com/weather/almanac/>

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

* January 16: Moorehead Planetarium field trip

permission slips will be going home today!   
 Please return them a soon as possible!

* January 17: Early Release
* January 20: Martin Luther King Day - No School
* January 21: Teacher Work Day - No School