



**Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School**

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## 2nd Grade Team Newsletter

February 2020

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### **Important dates to remember:**

**-Chess started Friday January 24th!**

**-Writing About Reading (Opinion writing) publishing party- Thursday February 13th**

**-No School- February 17th-21st**

**-Trip- BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUMBO**

**55 Water Street, 2nd floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201**

**11am-12pm**



- **Compare the heights of people, feet or arms in your family.**

**Writing:** We will be starting *Poetry!* Students will first focus on how poets see the world through their “Poet’s Eyes,” and are inspired by feelings and objects. Then students will learn how the choice and placement of words, line breaks, repetition, and metaphors can strengthen the meaning of their poems. Students will also learn various poem structures including list poems, story poems, and poems with back-and-forth structures.

- **Read or write poems together.**
- **Memorize, recite and act out a favorite poem with your child.**
- **Read a poem to your child while they draw a picture of what they imagine.**
- **Stop by the library and check out some poetry anthologies to explore together.**

**Reading:** We are starting *Bigger Books Mean Amping Up Reading Power.* In addition to focusing on fluency, this unit will teach students to understand literary language, use new comprehension strategies, and set goals as a reader. Students will then work in small reading groups, focusing on their reading goals together.

**Read a chapter book with your child!**

- **Take turns reading and making (and then describing) the image you had in your mind.**
- **Reread a chapter together, acting out the roles of the characters, using the voice and mood of the character.**
- **Read a chapter and put a sticky note on the parts where the character’s feelings change. Discuss reasons for these changes.**

**Social Studies:** We will be finishing up our *New York City Over Time* unit in Social Studies. We will be looking at New York City's growth and change throughout the years. We started our unit by taking a trip to the Transit Museum. There we contrasted life long ago to where we are today through the lens of transportation in New York City.

**Here are some ways that you support this exploration at home:**

- **Create a family timeline together**
- **Interview a friend or family member who is an immigrant. Discuss how life is different and the same here as in their country of origin.**
- **On a walk through the PS 8 neighborhood, stop at some of the historic buildings and compare them to our modern buildings.**

**Science:** Our upcoming science unit is Properties of Materials. In this unit, students will experience the powerful feeling of solving a problem using science knowledge and engineering practices. We will be introducing a problem to solve (in this case, a fictional scenario in which the school needs better glue), provides students with a purpose for everything they do in the unit, and a coherent frame within which they can learn a set of disciplinary core ideas related to the structure and properties of matter. Building the expertise necessary for success requires opportunities to learn, plan, make, and test glue designs- not just once, but several times.

**You can support your child in science by observing and describing materials together. For example, use as many of your senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) to describe something, such as a food, toothpaste, a paperclip, etc. Compare and contrast their properties. Include your child while you mix, cook or bake. How do the materials' properties change from one step to the next.**