



Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School

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Third Grade Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, February 17 - Friday, February 21, NO SCHOOL; Mid-Winter Recess

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON...

READING

We are continuing our character club unit, focusing on character traits, evidence to support claims about the character, and a character's journey on the story mountain. We will also compare and contrast characters across books, and think about the life lessons that we can learn from our reading. Stay tuned as we roll out a new weekly reading response homework routine. Please continue to support your child at home, asking them about their books. Here are some suggestions:

- At the end of a chapter: Retell your book - What happened in your book? How does this fit with the story thus far?
- What new ideas are you growing about your character? What kind of person are they? How do you know?
- How is your character changing? What lesson is your character learning?
- When you close your eyes, what image stands out from your book? Why?

WRITING

Students are spending the month writing literary essays. During this unit, students choose stories that they love and grow big ideas about these texts. They form an opinion about the character and write short essays, backing up their opinion with text evidence, an important skill they will practice for years to come.

MATH

In Math, we will be beginning Unit 5, returning to the study of multiplication, division and area. Students will solve multiplication and division problems, calculate the area of rectangles and use rectangular arrays to model and solve multiplication and division problems. As with all Bridges units, students are excited to work in partners and groups, problem solve together, and play Work Place games to build understanding of new concepts!

SOCIAL STUDIES

We will be wrapping up our unit on geography, ending the unit with a brief study of New York State's waterways, with particular emphasis on the Hudson River. We will then launch an exciting new mini-unit entitled, "What is Culture?" Students explore images and trade books to come up with a working definition of culture and think deeply about how cultures around the world are similar and different. The unit culminates with a celebration of the different cultures represented in our classrooms. Students will interview family members and bring in artifacts and recipes from home!

SCIENCE

We will be launching our new science unit, *Inheritance and Traits: Variations in Wolves*. Students will explore patterns in traits of organisms and begin to develop an understanding of the influences that inheritance and environment play in determining organisms' traits.

Homework Update

A weekly reading response will be added to homework beginning this month. Students will grow ideas about their books in fun and exciting ways, including drawings, letters to characters and authors and more! Stay tuned for more details!

Book-of-the-Month

As you may be aware, our school wide initiative around stances for learning include a book-of-the-month, read across all grades to all students, Please consider purchasing a copy of our February Book-of-the-Month, entitled "A Computer Called Katherine," by Suzanne Slade. Please find the link below, and thank you!

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VB447SWQ6BZD?type=wishlist>