



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

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## 1st Grade Newsletter

February, 2020

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### Welcome Note for this month...

Can you believe it's already February! This month, first grade is shifting gears in both reading and writing. We will be focusing on character study in reading where we learn to bring the characters we read in our books to life

by acting out scenes in our books! In addition, we are launching our opinion writing unit which is always a favorite! We are continuing our new social studies unit in February called *Our Families, Now, and Long-Ago*.

Students will be discussing their cultural heritages and learning from personal family stories. Our mathematics curriculum is highlighting addition and subtraction word problems, specifically using penguins as a key manipulative!

-1st Grade Team



Pictured above, first graders in Mr. Teitelbaum's class exploring and learning at the aquarium.

## Curriculum Updates

**Reading:** First graders have moved onto the next reading unit called, *Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons*. We are excited to practice and use these reading strategies:

- Noticing relationships between characters.
- Naming character traits (silly, funny, kind, generous, etc.)
- Rereading to learn more about characters.
- Readers act and become the character!
- Rereaders reread to smooth out their voice and show big feelings.

*Reading Tip: Ask your child to think about different ways they can make their characters “come to life” while reading.*

**Writing:** We will be shifting our study to opinion writing. Students will spend the first part of this unit writing about different collections that they bring in. They are beginning to share their opinions about their collections, writing about which features of different objects from their collections are the “best” and “worst” and reasons to support each. Then we will be changing our focus from our collections to writing reviews. Students will be asked to create reviews where they express their opinions on any topic of their choosing. We will see reviews of movies, games, restaurants, theme parks, books and many many more.

*Writing Tip: Have students remember that when they are expressing their opinion they need to give reasons that support why they feel the way they feel about a certain topic.*

**Math:** First Graders are in Unit 6, “*Figure the Facts with Penguins*”. Throughout this unit, first graders will continue to develop fluency with addition and subtraction facts to 10 and strategies to working with facts to 20. During this process, students will learn how to write and solve equations that involve unknowns in all positions and determine whether addition and subtraction equations are true or false. Throughout the unit, penguins are used to offer engaging story problems that give context to young learners.

*Math Tip: Remind students to circle the important information from word problems and record an equation to match.*

**Science:** We have completed our study on Animal and Plant defenses. This unit came to a close with our trip to the [New York Aquarium!](#)

*Science Tip: Continue having conversations with your child about plant and animal survival. Incorporate science vocabulary that we are using in the*

classroom such as “survive,” “structure,” “observe,” “predator” “prey,” “camouflage” and “defense.”

**Fundations:** This month we are launching Unit 8, which focuses on the difference between a blend (two consonants that appear at the beginning or end of a word, i.e., **f**rog, **f**ast) and a digraph (two letters that make one sound, i.e, **sh**ut, **with**, **ch**in.) Students will also be exposed to r- controlled vowels.

*Fundations Tip: Point out words with blends in daily reading or other activities. Some words with blends that we are focusing on this month are “plug,” “lend,” “stash,” “best,” “frog” and “crash”. Point out “trick words” (words that cannot be sounded out, which students should read by recognition and practice spelling correctly). The trick words that we will be learning in this unit are: “would,” “could”, “should, “her”, “over”, “number”. You can practice finding these trick words in books or even make flashcards to practice spelling them at home.*

**Social Studies:** This month we are continuing our unit, *Families, Now, and Long-Ago*. In this unit, students explore the essential question, “How do families grow and change over time?” They will learn that family events contribute to change by creating their own timelines with personal life events. We will then be changing our focus to cultural heritage and our various cultures. We will be completing this unit by discussing the impact of family stories and how family stories help to pass down family history.

*Social Studies Tip: Share family histories. Encourage your child to ask questions. Have your child retell stories being shared. Emphasize how events past and present in your family are connected. Share family artifacts, pictures etc. along with their stories.*

**Important Upcoming Dates: Please mark your calendar for all of the dates below!**

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>- 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>- Valentine’s Day

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>- Presidents Week: SCHOOL CLOSED