



Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School

37 Hicks Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel 718 834 6740 Fax 718 834 7690

Patricia Peterson, Principal | Caren Gandelman, Assistant Principal

2nd Grade Newsletter

March 2020



Welcome Note for this month...

We are enjoying our new units of study, especially our poetry unit! Chess is going strong and our second grade students look forward to Chess Fridays! Mr. Daniel is teaching all of us new moves. Some of the moves he is teaching us are, checkmates, castles, walking checkmate, and remember.....don't capture the king. Challenge your child to a game of chess at home!

Curriculum Updates

Math

Need help counting your change? This month your children will be learning how to count by five, ten, and twenty five cents. We are in *Unit 5: Place Value to 1000* and students will add and subtract numbers within 1000, learn place value to 1000, and become comfortable skip counting by 10s and 100s. Students will also solve story problems about money, using correct notation.

- **Ask your child to count the loose change in your wallet or pocket.**
- **Put loose change in a jar and ask them to sort and count it at the end of the week.**
- **Make paper clip chains and practice skip counting by tens, hundreds and thousands.**

Writing

Poetry is one of our favorite units in writing workshop! We began the unit this week and the enthusiasm in the room was contagious. Ask your child about their heart map. In this unit 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 their choice and placement of words, line breaks, repetition, and metaphors can strengthen the meaning of their poems. Students will also learn about various poem structures including list poems, story poems, and poems with back-and-forth structures.

- **Read or write some 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

This week in our classrooms students focused on reading with fluency. This month we will be continuing our unit ***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 characters feelings change. Discuss reasons for these changes.

Science

Our second 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), The context 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. We look forward to many fun explorations together!

You can support your child in science by observing and describing materials at home.. For example, use as many of your senses (sight, sound, 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. Explore, how do the materials' properties change from one step to the next?

FUNdations

Students will learn to read and spell words with r-controlled syllables (-ar, -er, -ir, -or, -ur). When a vowel is directly followed by the letter **r**, the **r** changes the sound of the vowel. For example, in the word bark, the vowel **a** makes neither the short or long vowel sound. We will combine r-controlled syllables with other syllable types to read and spell multisyllabic words.

Lunch/Recess with Ms. Melissa

Are you persistent? What does it mean - look like, sound like - to empathize? Lunch and recess time present wonderful opportunities to teach into our whole school learning via the book *The Mindset for Learning* by Kristine Mraz and Christine Hertz. There are five mindsets that can help facilitate learning: empathy, flexibility, persistence, resilience and optimism.



We are currently embarking on a study of empathy. How does it feel to walk in someone else's shoes? During conflict, 2nd grade students are encouraged to pause, take a moment and think, "How is this person feeling?" "What can I do to help?" Take a moment to talk about empathy with your child. What are their thoughts and wonderings? Any and all understanding is welcomed and appreciated!

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

March 24th: Class 2-202 walking trip to Brooklyn Historical Society

April 3rd: Class 2-204 walking trip to Brooklyn Historical Society