



Public School 8, The Robert Fulton School

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Kindergarten Team Newsletter

March 2020

Welcome Note for this month...

Is it March already? This school year is flying by and our kindergartners are growing in leaps and bounds. Lots of fun projects, activities and learning this month. We've got nonfiction chapter books in Writing Workshop, building pinball machines in science and diving into more conventional reading in Reading Workshop, Through it all, we are building our stamina! We are spending more time on task as we read longer books, write longer pieces and engage in hands-on science projects. We are also working with peers in pairs and small groups. As we build independence, we are solving problems and meeting challenges cooperatively. So proud of all PS 8 kindergarten students!



Children in K-103 work together to build the Statue of Liberty and make flags of the United States as well as other countries as part of our Social Studies curriculum ***Self and Others: Individual Development and Cultural Identity.***

Reading For the first part of the month, we will continue our reading unit "**Bigger Books, Bigger Reading Muscles**". Building from the previous "Super Powers" unit, the students will continue to use the "powers" they learned (using the picture, noticing the pattern, looking at the first letter, etc.). In addition, students will learn to pay close attention to the print (looking at the beginning AND ending of words, noticing blends and digraphs, and quickly recognizing snap words).

Make sure to continue to have your child talk to you about the books they are reading at home. This will help their comprehension skills and get them more comfortable answering questions about texts they read.

In the second half of the month, we will transition to learning strategies to read and understand nonfiction texts. They have already been reading nonfiction books in class and in their take-home baggies. There are many wonders around us and children have an innate curiosity about the world. The first part of this unit teaches children to raise questions about the information their nonfiction books are teaching them. They will learn that the pictures can teach us just as much about the topic as the words. After reading a nonfiction book, students will learn to ask themselves questions such as:

- What was this book about?
- What did it teach me?
- What could I teach someone else about this topic?

This unit will rely heavily on talking in partnerships, so practicing these questions at home will help your child become more comfortable doing so in the classroom with a partner, in a small group, or with the whole class.

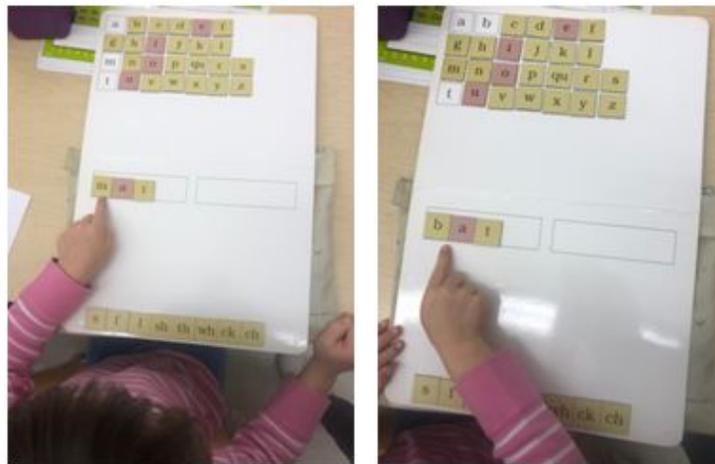
Writing Focus

The children of PS 8 have been working hard on their "How to" writing unit. We launched our unit by getting hands-on experiences. The children traveled to other Kindergarten classrooms and learned "How to" do different things such as, "How to Make a Snowflake" and "How to Make a Paper Plate Fish". Children have been spending time during this unit to think of what else they know how to do and writing about it. Some great ideas from the kids have been "How to Make S'mores", "How to Make Your Bed", "How to be Table Captain" and even "How to be a Good Friend". While writing about different fun topics, children have been continuing to work on the writing process (plan, sketch, label, write). The children are also practicing using capital letters to start sentences and then using all lowercase following. They have been using spacing in between their words so their writing is easier to read. Some children are even remembering to put punctuation at the end of sentences.

We will be wrapping up this unit, but these skills will be carried over into our next unit "All About Books" which will be starting during the month of March. During this unit, children will be able to choose topics that are of interest to them.

FUNdations

We are wrapping up Unit 2 and launching Unit 3 of Foundations. We are finishing up with learning the correct letter formation for uppercase letters and reviewing writing lowercase letters. Students will continue to blend and read three-sound short vowel words, which are often referred to as CVC words (i.e. cat, get, dig). We will also work on manipulating the words by changing the initial, final, and medial sounds to create new words as well as make and blend some **nonsense words** such as *bez*. Nonsense words have no meaning but are important to include to ensure decoding mastery. Students will also learn how to tap out the sounds in a word and find the letters corresponding to each tap in order to spell the word.



Pictured above is a student building the word "mat" then replacing the letter *m* with the letter *b* to change the word to "bat".

FUNdations Tip: Please remind your child to sit correctly and use a proper pencil grip when writing. This is essential in proper letter formation.



Math

In March kindergarten students will complete the unit, "Paths to Adding, Subtracting & Measuring" and then begin our next unit, "Two-Dimensional Geometry."

Kindergarten students continue:

- counting forward and backward between 0 and 50
- ordering and comparing numbers from 1-10
- solving addition and subtraction problems within 10
- comparing objects to see which is longer, shorter, or the same length
- adding with pennies and nickels

We will continue to work with a number line to help students read numbers in a counting sequence and to connect number words with written numerals when they count forward and backward. Number Lines also help students to see relationships between numbers. For example, a child can see that 1 is next to 2, but 10 is much farther away.

Our next unit focuses on geometry. Students begin by comparing a sphere and circle in order to explore the differences between 3-dimensional shapes and 2-dimensional shapes. Students then examine, identify, compare and sort 2-dimensional shapes.

At home, you can provide your child with opportunities to count objects such as small toys, pennies, or snack items like grapes or crackers, then ask, "What if I gave you one more? How many would you have?" or "What if I took one away? How many would you have?"

Science

It's pinball time! Each student will build their own pinball machine model to delve into the world of physics. The main focus is to understand: how do we make a pinball move to a certain place? The children will observe forces through hands-on exploration and reading books to develop an understanding about the kinds of forces that can make objects move to the left and the right or short and long distances. The children will build modeling boxes to test ideas and develop an understanding of the forces needed to move an object long and short distances and explore the relationship between the strength of a force exerted (gentle or strong) and the distance an object moves (short or long). They will also understand that an important part of engineers' work involves modifying their solutions to problems as they learn more. Let the games begin!

Lunch & Recess - from Olivia, Eileen & Trish

It feels like spring has sprung in our playground; the children are enjoying the warmer weather! Recess continues to be a favorite time of day for many as creative play is such fun. Popular play at the moment includes a variety of games of tag -- including "families" of kittens and ninjas who run around, taking turns being "it" and tagging others.. We encourage all children to use a **"two-finger"** touch to ensure safety during tag. Soccer remains a game of choice and there are often an additional 2-3 small games going on in addition to the larger game that takes place daily in the front area of the school yard. Recently jump rope has become quite popular and we are proud of the persistence our youngest children have as they work to develop jump rope skills.

Important Dates

Friday March 13th - PJ Movie Night Grades K-2 - "Toy Story 4" & Last day for Kids Cre8 FRIDAY clubs

Wednesday March 18th - Last day for Kids Cre8 WEDNESDAY clubs

Thursday March 19th - Last day for Kids Cre8 THURSDAY clubs

Thursday March 26th - General PTA meeting 6:00

Friday March 27th - Report Cards will be sent home with students

Looking ahead:

Thursday April 9th - Friday April 17th Spring Recess - School will resume Monday April 20th.

Contact us with questions or concerns.