

PTA Meeting Grade Level Notes

Teacher Representative: Allison Reed (3rd Grade)

January 15, 2021

| Grade | Grade Level Notes |
|-------|---|
| K | <p>Phonics- Kindergartners just started our Word Part unit otherwise known as word families like -at, -an, -ap words etc. They are also learning Snap Words otherwise known as high frequency words such as the, a, he, she, we, and more! We play lots of games with our word work to keep the work engaging and provide the repetition the children need to master the phonics skills.</p> <p>Reading- We are ready to wrap up our Super Powers unit where the children are first introduced to reading strategies such as using picture power, sound power and more to help them read unknown words. It's an exciting time for our young readers as they also start to learn how to "shop" for books. This is when they choose just right books for them. This is a long process, but one that helps them chose the right level for themselves but with plenty of guidance from their teacher.</p> <p>Writing- We are about to launch into our True Stories unit where the children will learn more about punctuation in writing and editing. The Kindergartners especially like sharing time with their partners even though they are 6ft apart! Having other people listen to their ideas and stories is what writing is all about! It's truly motivating to the children to develop ideas that their friends would enjoy reading during sharing time.</p> <p>Math- We just completed our 2D and 3D shapes units. The children had fun doing scavenger hunts for various 3D shapes at home last week. Some students created buildings and castles with recycled and reusable materials. The creativity was endless!</p> <p>Science- We've been enjoying using Generation Genius as we learn science this year. Last weeks lessons focused on Plants Needs. The children love the engaging videos and peeks their curiosity too! SeeSaw has been an invaluable tool for assigning work especially during our Remote Learning times for everything from read alouds to science!</p> <p>SEL- Our SEL activities have focused on building community in our classrooms. Having Star of the Week, Show & Tell opportunities, and even Dance Parties are all ways to build community and a sense of belonging and connectedness for the children.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p>In reading, the first graders have been busy reading nonfiction to learn about the world in which they live. In particular, they have learned how to get super smart about different nonfiction topics and how to teach others what they are learning about their topic. They also continue to practice good habits for solving tricky words by asking; "What would make sense?" "What would sound right," and "What would look right?"</p> <p>In writing, the first graders have been writing informational texts in which they have been teaching their readers all about a topic of expertise. Within these books they are learning how to write strong introductions and conclusions and how to include different pages such as a "how-to" and a list. They continue to work on editing for spelling, capitalization, punctuation and complete sentences.</p> <p>In math, the first graders are beginning to learn how to solve addition and subtraction facts to 20. They are applying the concepts of part-whole and number bonds to solve problems that include numbers 10-20. They are beginning to group 2-digit numbers as 10's and 1's.</p> <p>In science, the first graders are beginning to explore life science. They will learn how to mimic how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow and meet their needs. They will also learn to make observations to construct an evidence-based account of how young plants and animals are like their parents.</p> <p>In social studies, the first graders are learning what it means to be a leader and the steps that it takes to create positive change. They are also continuing to explore how maps and globes give us information and what communities they are a citizen of and where they are located.</p> <p>During SEL time, the first graders are continuing to learn about empathy and different ways to recognize how someone is feeling. They are continuing to practice ways to calm down through different mindfulness activities.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Second Graders have embarked on their nonfiction reading and writing adventures. Within this unit, students learn to utilize nonfiction writing elements to further comprehension and use them in their own writing pieces. Students are preparing nonfiction EXPERT books! In math we are studying money & time. We will no longer need to ask when lunch is!!!! In social studies, second graders have been studying map skills and Native American tribes. Students learn that the geographical location of the tribe differentiated food supply, the type of homes they build and the roles of the tribe members.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | We want to thank the PTA and parents for the fabulous holiday gifts! |
| 3 | The third grade team would like to wish the PTA a Happy New Year! Also, thank you very much for the generous holiday gifts! The third grade students have been working very hard lately. In reading, they are studying nonfiction reading skills and learning about a variety of topics! They are exploring the importance of text features and different text structures. In addition, they are also working as informational writers! We have many experts in third grade! In math we are studying multiplication and learning strategies for solving multiplication problems. Finally, in science, the students are observing the world around them and studying fossils, ecosystems and weather. They continue to practice using observations as evidence to support scientific arguments. In addition, the remote third grade students have been using the Design Thinking and Engineer Design Process to solve problems. We have loved seeing the students' creative thinking and problem-solving skills. |
| 4 | <p>Here are some of the things going on in fourth grade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading — students are focusing on nonfiction: reading, taking notes, and making presentations on extreme weather events and natural disasters. • Writing — students working on persuasive essays and opinion writing. • Math — we are wrapping up our unit on multiplication, division, bar models, and word problems. Looking ahead, we will be moving into fractions. • SEL — students have been learning a new theme each week. Some themes consist of growth mindset, self-esteem, responsibility, inclusion, and more. • Science — students have been learning about human body systems, energy and its effects on humans and the environment, and brain processing of senses. • Social studies — throughout the year, we have been incorporating current events and other social topics into reading, writing, SEL, and other general classroom discussions. However, our curriculum learning will begin at the start of the new semester. |

| | |
|------------|--|
| <p>Art</p> | <p>Kindergarten: We have been exploring Art History and Appreciation this past month, creating beautiful oil pastel and watercolor gardens inspired by Claude Monet and thinking about how our pets comfort and keep us company like Frida Kahlo and her Animalitos. Next month we will be making winter themed collages.</p> <p>First Grade: 1st Graders have been quite busy these past few months exploring many different mediums in their art making- using oil pastels, soft pastel chalk and watercolors. They are ending their semester with 3-D wire and found object sculptures inspired by Alexander Calder.</p> <p>Second Grade: 2nd graders have just finished their unit on Architecture with lessons in neighborhood map building skills, floor plans for their dream bedroom and 3-D toothpick structures. We are ending our semester with pinch pot clay penguins.</p> |
|------------|--|