



FRIDGE NOTES

Mrs. McBride's Class Family

September 29th – October 3rd

As mentioned in more detail over in the "Reading" section, this week we will be taking our first major test in reading. This test will have a major impact on your child's reading grade, so please review some test taking strategies at home. We will discuss them in class, as well, but here are some helpful reminders:

- Read all directions carefully.
- Take your time.
- Double check your work.
- Reread to find the answer- don't just guess or go off of memory.
- Try your best and ask for help if you need it!

I want this test to be an opportunity for all of the kids to really show what they know, so hopefully hearing a double dose of these important strategies will allow them to do just that!

Congratulations to last week's Principal's Award winner, Alexis!

Important Dates

Tuesday, October 7-
Hearing Screenings

Wednesday, October 8-
International Walk to School Day

Reading

This week in reading, we will take our first Benchmark Test of the school year. This assessment consists of different reading passages and questions that incorporate a variety of reading skills and strategies. We will break the test up into smaller chunks and work on one section each day. The first four days will involve reading and analyzing texts. The last day will focus on all of the phonics patterns and rules we have been working on (short vowels, long vowels with the magic-e, hard/soft c, hard/soft g, and consonant blends). This test helps students begin to build their reading stamina, which will prepare them for the state reading test they will take next year in third grade.

Math

This week we will apply what we have learned about place value to more difficult concepts. We will create number patterns by changing one digit at a time (For example: "100 more" means you increase the hundreds digit by 1, but leave all the other digits alone.) We will use "alligator math" (as I like to call it- Go Gators!) to explain the terms *greater than*, *less than* and *equal to*, as well as the corresponding symbols. (>,<=). The alligator always wants to eat the greater number, so we turn his mouth toward that number. We will also work on ordering 3-digit numbers. At home, try writing a few 3-digit numbers on index cards and have your child move the index cards around to place the numbers in order from least to greatest, or greatest to least.

Writing

This week we will also take the Unit 1 Benchmark Test on all of the language arts skills we have been working on: subject vs predicate, complete sentences, the four types of sentences (statements, questions, exclamations, commands), nouns, and singular vs plural.

Please note: During weeks when we are taking benchmark tests, there will be 20 review spelling words. There will NOT be a separate spelling quiz because these phonics patterns and rules are assessed on both the reading and language arts tests. Please complete the spelling homework as usual, but practice all 20 words.

Science & Social Studies

We are beginning our second unit in science on earth structures. We will discuss how the earth is made up of many different kinds or rocks and soil. The best part about this unit is that it is a great excuse to get a little dirty at school! This week we will use our 5 senses to compare and contrast 3 different types of soil: sand, humus and clay. We will discuss the "ingredients" of soil and the importance of soil to plants.

In social studies, we are learning about a different kind of structure- the structure of our government! We will learn about the functions and limits of our government, as well as the characteristics and roles of each of the 3 branches.