



# Mrs. Reeb's and Mrs. Schneeberger's Turtle and Trout Newsletter September 1st, 2016

## Here's What We Did This Week:

### Reading and Writing

The past few weeks, we have been getting to know each other as readers and writers. We have discussed learning goals, our favorite books, and our favorite things to write about. We also read *First Day Jitters*, focusing on the five main story elements: characters, setting, beginning, middle, and end.

### Grammar and Spelling

This week we focused on distinguishing between complete sentences and sentence fragments, and between statements and commands. Our spelling words focused on short vowel sounds.

### Math Focus: Place Value

#### Mathematicians:

- Identify place values through the thousands place
- Compare numbers using place value
- Order numbers using place value
- Round numbers to the nearest tens

## Here's The Plan for Next Week:

### Reading

Readers will read the realistic fiction story *Dear Juno*. They will focus on analyzing story structure, particularly character traits,. Students will be able to identify character traits, motivations, and feelings, and explain how They will also begin participating in the DRA, a one on one assessment with the teacher.

### Writing

Writers will begin their narrative writing unit. We will first study mentor texts to answer the following question: What is narrative writing? Why do people read it? How do these texts tend to go?

### Grammar and Spelling

Next week we will focus on distinguishing between commands and exclamations. Our spelling words will focus on long vowels ending with a silent e.

### Math Focus: Place Value

#### Mathematicians Will:

- Round numbers to the nearest

hundreds

- Problem solve
- Chapter 1 Review

**Other News:**

- Take Home Folders: Students are using their blue folders as take home folders. ***These folders will travel to and from school every day.*** One side is labeled “Keep at Home”. This will include finished and graded work, and any notes from the office. The other side is labeled “Return to School”. This is a spot where students will bring home work that needs to be finished and returned the next day.
- If we do not have your email address, please get this to us ASAP. **Paper copies of newsletters will not be sent home unless it is requested in writing from you.**
- By now you should have received an invitation to Class Dojo. This is an online classroom management tool which allows you to be continually updated throughout the day. Students earn or lose points depending on their choices. Please let me know if you have not received an invitation.
- All students will need a pair of headphones or earbuds for technology class. Please send them to school clearly labeled with your child’s name.
- Mrs. Stout is asking that each student bring in a picture of his/herself. Students are making banners to go with our school wide Olympic theme.
- PTO carnival Sept 9th from 5-7 pm. Families can enjoy “Olympic Games” and eat dinner before heading to the home football game. Tickets for games are \$5 for 20 tickets and all food is \$1 each. Proceeds benefit school enrichment, classroom supplies, offset cost for field trips and more!
- Math Homework: Math homework will be sent home most days. It is a review of that day’s math work. It will be counted as two points extra credit on report cards. Homework will be accepted daily and no later than each chapter test.
- Our first math test will be September 12<sup>st</sup>. The chapter review will be sent home Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> for students to study.
- Snacks: Students are responsible for bringing their own snack daily. Earlier this week a letter was sent home explaining we’d like students to bring healthy “power snacks.” We try to keep extra healthy snacks in the classroom for when students forget.
- Spelling: ***Spelling words will come home every Monday.*** A pretest will be given every Wednesday, and a final test will be given every Friday. If a student receives 100% on the pretest, they will be exempt from the final test. Our spelling words are part of our Treasures Language Arts program.
- Grades: Please see the last sheet regarding our grading system.

### **THE BIG ZOO LESSON!**

Third graders have an exciting opportunity to attend The Big Zoo lesson at Potter Park Zoo this winter. This is a change from the traditional field trip model to a week long interdisciplinary study trip, connecting science learning with the real world setting of the zoo. We will make the zoo our classroom for an entire week, December 12th-16th. This experience includes investigations, behind-the-scene tours, presentations by community experts, and groups of students working cooperatively on research. We will talk with wildlife experts, observe animal behavior, and research animals from all over the world. We are hoping for at least five adults volunteers each day. Please check your schedule to see if you or another adult can attend any or all days.

Due to the cost of the Big Zoo (\$30 per student plus \$225 for each bus times 5 days), we will be doing fundraising as a grade level. Currently, we are selling Cravings Popcorn. Popcorn bags are \$10 each and we earn \$5 of each bag sold--what a great profit! We are sending home another copy of the information on the Cravings Popcorn as well as another copy of an order form if you are willing to participate. **All orders and money are due to your teacher on Sept 12th. Please have checks made payable to Perry Public Schools. Popcorn will arrive on Sept 28th!**

**In Third Grade, students will receive many grades due to in-class work, projects, at-home projects and tests. Any score below 70% MUST be fixed AT HOME to increase their grade. Students who receive above 70% CAN fix to receive a better grade. All fixes will need to be done at HOME. Here is an example of scoring. If a student received a 65% on a test and they fix their mistakes and turn in back in, their new score would be 83% ( $100 - 65 = 35 / 2 = 17.5$     $65 + 18 = 83\%$ ) The following is our grading scale:**

**A- = 92-90%**

**B+ = 89-87%**

**B = 86-84%**

**B- = 83-80%**

**C+ = 79-76%**

**C = 75-73%**

**C- = 72-70%**

**D+ = 69-67%**

**D = 66-63%**

**D- = 62-60%**

**E = 59% and below**