



Mrs. Reeb's and Mrs. Schneeberger's Turtle and Trout Newsletter September 16th, 2016

Here's What We Did This Week:

Reading

Readers read an informational text, *Whose Habitat Is It?*. They will focus on identifying the main idea and key details of the text. Readers began using dictionaries to determine and clarify the meaning of unfamiliar words. We also continued to administer the DRA.

Writing

Writers brainstormed ideas for a narrative true stories by thinking about people and places that matter to them. They set writing goals for this unit.

Grammar and Spelling

This week we focused identifying the subjects of sentences. Spelling words focused on long a spellings.

Math Focus: Place Value

Mathematicians:

- Chapter 1 Test
- I can use addition properties to add whole numbers
- I can identify patterns in the addition table

Here's The Plan for Next Week:

Reading

Readers will read a narrative nonfiction story titled, *Penguin Chick*. They will focus on identifying the main idea and key details of the text. Readers will determine the meaning of homographs using sentence context, and practice reading fluently. We will also continue to administer the DRA.

Writing

Writers will learn to use a repertoire of strategies to become storytellers. They will think about the heart of the story, plan and rehearse their stories, and revise by studying author's craft. They will also cross-check their writing for the basic elements of narrative stories.

Grammar and Spelling

Students will focus on identifying the predicates of sentences, and correcting run on sentences. Our spelling words will focus on long o spellings.

Math Focus: Addition

Mathematicians Will:

- Checking progress and review worksheet

- I can use place value to identify addition patterns
- I can use mental addition strategies

Social Studies Focus: Michigan
Researches will:

- Describe what makes a State
- Tell how our State symbols help people learn about Michigan

Science

We began our first science unit by discussing what it means to be a scientist. We then began exploring why plants and animals survive in specific environments. This week we learned about adaptations specific to wetlands.

- I can estimate sums using rounding
- I can use models to explore adding three-digit numbers
- I can add three-digit numbers and use estimation to check for reasonableness
- Chapter 2 Review

Social Studies Focus: Michigan
Researches will:

- State how are lakes and rivers important to MI? What made the Great Lakes?
- Tell how Michigan’s geography affected the way people live?

Science

We will continue exploring why plants and animals survive in different environments. We will focus specifically on deciduous forests and grasslands.

Other News:

- **Homecoming:** Next week is homecoming. The following are our spirit days:
 - Monday - Favorite Team Shirt day
 - Tuesday - Neon/Glow Day
 - Wednesday - Class Color Day- 3rd grade is orange.
 - Thursday - Wear a Character Shirt
 - Friday - Perry Pride
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.

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.