



Mrs. Reeb's and Mrs. Schneeberger's Turtle and Trout Newsletter September 9th, 2016

Here's What We Did This Week:

Reading

Readers read the realistic fiction story *Dear Juno*. They focused on analyzing story structure, particularly character traits,. Students learned to identify character traits, motivations, and feelings. They will began participating in the DRA, a one on one assessment with the teacher.

Writing

Writers began their narrative writing unit. We first studied 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

This week we focused on distinguishing between commands and exclamations. Our spelling words focused on long vowels ending with a silent e.

Math Focus: Place Value

Mathematicians:

- Round numbers to the nearest tens
- Round numbers to the nearest hundreds

Here's The Plan for Next Week:

Reading

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

Writing

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

Grammar and Spelling

Students will focus on identifying the subjects of sentences. Our spelling words will focus on long a spellings.

Math Focus: Place Value

Mathematicians Will:

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

- Problem solve
- Chapter 1 Review
- Chapter Test Sept 12th

addition table

- 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 will begin our first science unit by discussing what it means to be a scientist. We then will begin exploring why plants and animals survive in specific environments.

Other News:

- **Homecoming:** The week of September 19th-23rd 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.
- 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.
- 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 12th. The chapter review will be sent home Friday, September 9th 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. **If you would like to contribute to our supply, that would be greatly appreciated!**
- 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 it back in, their new score would be 83% ($100 - 65 = 35$, $35 / 2 = 17.5$, $65 + 18 = 83\%$) 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