



Reading Corner

We are continuing in our Character unit. Students will learn that characters often face a series of hurdles that grow bigger until the climax, when the character is prompted to resolve the problem. We will look for patterns in a character's thoughts and reactions to problems, all while noticing the choices they make during the story's climax. Readers will also learn lessons alongside their characters. We will use and examine story mountains, where we will continue to understand how characters fit into the shape of a story.

Questions to ask at home:

- * **How do you learn about the characters in books?**
- * **What have you learned about the characters in your book so far?**
- * **What theories have you developed about these characters?**
- * **What questions might you like to ask a character in your book?**

Writer's Workshop

We will continue to draft persuasive speeches, and petitions where writers will write bold claims supported by reasons and evidence. Students will continue to learn the basic structure of opinion writing and how to adequately support their opinions. Students have been writing about issues that matter to them, as well as noteworthy people who they believe deserve special attention. Students selected their first opinion topic to develop, write long and strong about, and eventually publish. They are spending time gathering evidence that will support and prove their theses/claims.

To support your child at home:

*Encourage your child to support their requests with reasons and evidence. (*I think we should go to the park (claim) because then we can all get some movement (reason). For example, the kids can play tag while the parents run (evidence).*)

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, February 7th - School Spirit Day: "Thinking Ahead Thursday": Students are encouraged to dress up as something they aspire to be in the future.

Friday, February 8th - Report Cards Sent Home

Friday, February 8th - Brent CommUNITY DANCE: 6:30-8:30pm

Monday, February 18th - February 22nd - February Break
NO SCHOOL for Students or Staff

Announcements/Reminders:

Just-Right Books

Have you been looking for a book on your child's "just-right" reading level?

1. Go to www.scholastic.com (make sure you are on the teacher's view-**click on "teacher's home" in teacher drop down tab**)
2. Click on Book Wizard (on the top)
3. Click on Search by Reading Level
4. Click on Guided Reading, and put in your child's level
5. Thousands of books will appear on your screen. You can narrow your search by clicking on different buttons on the left side of the screen.

Eureka Math

We have just launched our fifth math module of the year on fractions. Throughout this unit, we will learn about their relation to the whole. Students will use multiple visual models to compare fractions by reasoning about their size. Students will also learn to place fractions on a number line, including whole number fractions and fractions between whole numbers. Mathematicians will compare fractions and whole numbers by reasoning about their distance from zero and understand the distance and position on the number line as strategies for comparing fractions.

To support your child at home:

*Encourage your child to log onto Xtra Math (or practice flashcards) to practice multiplication and division fluency.

*Talk to your child about fractions of a whole. Discuss fractions when cooking or using measurement. Focus on $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$.

Must Know Spelling Words:

Each week, students will be introduced to 6 must know spelling words:

2/4: **dreamed**, **hopped**, **learned**, kicked, **finished**, showed

2/11: chose, cost, drew, meant, stolen, wrote

***bold words** are tested on spelling test

Grammar Practice:

Every two weeks we will focus on a new grammar skill. Our grammar skill for the next two weeks is:

irregular/special plural nouns

child-children

die-dice

mouse-mice

man – men

Science and Social Studies

We are continuing our study of government by learning about the three branches of government. So far we have learned about the legislative branch and will be moving onto the executive branch next.

To support your child at home:

* Discuss the branches of government and each branch's function.

* Ask your child which branch of government he/she feels is most important and discuss why.

* Discuss current political events and how they show the checks and balances system at work.



*Follow us on Instagram for photos:
brentthirdgraders