Reading Corner

This next week we will begin a new unit in reading, the Research Unit, where students are working in research clubs to learn about various animals. Our readers have selected the subtopics that they want to further learn and research about. Readers are synthesizing across texts to gather and combine information to become experts on their topics. Our researchers will also learn to use technical language, or lingo, to talk about their research topics. Throughout this unit, we will focus on group work and the importance of enthusiasm, commitment, and flexibility when working as a team.

Questions to ask at home:
* What are some facts you have learned about the animal that you are researching?
* What type of lingo can you use to describe your animal?
* Encourage your child to use transition words when she/he speaks about their animal topics (also, in addition to, on the other hand).

Writer’s Workshop

We are in the third bend of a Literary Essay writing unit. Students are reading short texts and then writing paragraph long responses to their reading. In this bend students are learning how to debate a claim. Each essay starts with naming the author and text and stating a BIG, BOLD claim. Students are learning to support their claims with both direct quotes and paraphrased ideas from the text. They are adding transitional phrases such as, “In the beginning...” or “At the end...” Writers are also adding sentences to explain why their evidence supports their claim.

To support your child at home:
* Ask your child questions about what they are reading and have them support their answers with examples from the text. (Ex: I think that the character is (character trait). For example...)

Upcoming Dates

Friday, March 13: Club Day #4
Uniform Free Day

Monday, March 16th: Trimester 2
Specials Learning Showcase at 1:40pm

Tuesday, March 17th: Black History Wax Museum 1-3:15pm

Friday, March 20th: Professional Development Day
No School for Students

*Stay tuned for information about our field trip to the Supreme Court in MARCH. The date is to be determined!

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.

*Encourage your child to use the online math programs Xtra Math and Zearn to practice and reinforce math fluency and problem-solving skills.

*Encourage your child to work on the corresponding Eureka math lesson
**Science and Social Studies**

We are continuing our study of the three branches of government. In preparation for our Supreme Court field experience (DATE: TBD), students have been learning about the responsibilities of the judicial branch, as well as the different levels of the court system in our country. We are currently conducting mock trial about Humpty Dumpty – did he fall or was he pushed?!

**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.

**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 ½, 1/3, ¼, 1/6 and 1/8.

**Must Know Spelling Words:**
Each week, students will be introduced to 6 must know spelling words:

3/2: teacher, writer, winner, counter, fighter, jeweler

3/9: quickest, latest, furthest, angrier, earlier, thinner

**Grammar Practice:**

3/2 Articles
The words a, an, and the are called articles.
Ex: I saw a boy. Meg put the ball away. You need an umbrella on a rainy day.

3/9 Commas
Commas are used to separate three words or phrases in a series.
Ex: I saw bears, giraffes, and kangaroos at the zoo.

*Follow us on Instagram for photos: brenthirdgraders*