



Reading Corner

We have recently begun our 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 drafting stage of our Fairy Tale unit. In the upcoming week, students will select a second classic fairy tale to adapt. Students will learn how to incorporate refrains, balance action and dialogue, and learn how to revise as they draft. The most important part of this unit is to keep the classic story elements the same, while understanding how their own changes can affect the rest of their story adaptation.

To support your child at home:

- *Encourage your child to read a variety of fairy tales, both classic and more modern versions. Ask questions such as: how are the classic and modern versions similar? How are they different?
- *Ask your child questions such as: What are the common story elements of fairy tales? What is the typical story structure of fairy tales? Why do you think fairy tales are often told and retold? Why do you think so many fairy tales have been adapted over and over again?

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, April 9th: Brent's Math & Science Day

Wednesday, April 10th: Supreme Court Field Experience: 9:15-12:00

Friday, April 12: Report Cards sent home

Monday, April 15 – Friday, April 19th: Spring Break: School closed

Monday, April 22nd: Students & Staff return

Wednesday, April 24th: PTA Meeting: 6:30-7:30pm

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 are currently in the middle of our data and graphing unit. Mathematicians have been analyzing, collecting, and graphing data in a variety of ways (charts with tally marks, pictographs, tables, and bar graphs). Next week we will continue to represent measurement data with line plots, as well as analyze data to problem solve. Upon our return from spring break, we will move onto our seventh and final module. We will begin this module by solving word problems using a letter to represent the unknown. We will then move onto geometry, where students compare and classify quadrilaterals and other polygons.

To support your child at home:

- *Continue to encourage your child to log onto Xtra Math/Reflex (or practice flashcards) to practice multiplication and division fluency.
- *Ask your child to create a graph using data from something they enjoy! This could be colors from M&Ms or the kinds of books they have read.
- *Identify quadrilaterals and other polygons around the house (i.e., floor and wall tiles), and other areas around your community (i.e., triangles = yield signs, octagons = stop signs).

Must Know Spelling Words:

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

4/8: harden, **lengthen**, **toughen**, wooden, **tighten**, **dampen**

4/22: friendly, finally, wisely, nearly, safely, assembly

***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: **Verbs**

Action verbs: show an action (ex: My dog **ran**.)

Linking verbs: connect subject to noun or adjective (ex: His sister **is** a trumpet player.)

Helping verbs: come before main verb to tell about action. (ex: You **should read** that story.)

Science and Social Studies

We are continuing our study of the three branches of government. In preparation for our Supreme Court field experience, 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.



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brentthirdgraders