Dear Families,

February 24 – 28, 2020

It’s hard to believe we’re already thinking about spring conferences, thanks for returning the time/day request forms that were sent home last week. The greater amounts of sunshine are so nice – but children still need appropriate outdoor winter weather clothing. Active Inquiry class goes outside fairly often, and students have free play recess outside each and every day. Please help by helping your child organize their backpacks and gear at night; sometimes mornings get crazy. Thank you.

This week in math we will be starting a new unit on fractions. This unit emphasizes fractions of regions and collections of objects, as well as relationships between fractions. We will also continue to work on the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The main areas of focus for this unit are: 1) To review basic fraction concepts; 2) To use fractions to name parts of a whole and of a collection; 3) To find pairs of equivalent fractions; and 4) To solve number stories involving fractions.

One way we introduce comparing fractions at school that you could duplicate at home is to take pieces of paper and fold them into different equal sections (eg. into thirds, or fourths), then have your child color varying sections and discuss what fraction of the paper is colored and what is not. Then you could use the pieces of paper to compare fractions; for example, is $\frac{1}{2}$ more or less than $\frac{3}{4}$? Origami also has opportunities for talking about fractions, and cooking together is a great way to explore fractions as you use $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cup, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a teaspoon, etc.

Realistic Fiction stories continue to evolve. We’re talking about how Realistic Fiction stories are 3D. They contain description, dialogue and drama between realistic characters. Some students are bringing their rough drafts home to work on. Please ensure the writing comes back to school every day so children can build on their previous work.

We hope to see some of you at Friday’s Reading Celebration! Invitations went home this weekend. Everyone is welcome, but the stars will be those who are preparing Book Talk Recommendations to speak about up on the stage Benyamin, Hassen, Abdifatah, KaYoon, Javier, Eloise, Calvin, and Makenzie

It’s really a treat to witness the books they choose and how well-spoken they are.

**General Information:**

- Specialist classes: M, AI, PE, S, M
- 2/26 Spirit Day – Beach Day! (no bathing suits please)
- 2/27 Ordway Theater "HerBeat Taiko Women Allstars"
- 2/28 Reading Celebration 12:45
- 3/2 Science Fair Volunteers Needed 12:20 – 1:50 and 6:30 – 7:45
- 3/4 Bell Museum Field Trip 10:00 AM – will need a lunch
- 3/5 Scholastic Book Orders due GZR7Z
- 3/6 No School – Conference Preparation
- 3/18 & 3/19 Evening Conferences
- 3/20 Daytime Conferences
- 2nd grade website: https://www.spps.org/domain/237

Best, Ms. Lee    mao.lee@spps.org