

February/March

First Grade News

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Third marking period is just beginning and we are excited about all the new things our students will be learning. Students have been engaged in learning in a variety of ways. This marking we will be focusing on **synthesis** (critical thinking skills)- putting parts together to build understanding of a whole concept or to form a new or unique whole. Other areas of focus will effort, motivation, and persistence (academic success skills) – working diligently, and applying effective strategies to achieve a goal or solve a problem.

In **reading**, we will continue to read non-fiction and fiction books. The non-fiction books will focus on:

- Retelling key details
- Asking questions about meaning of words and phrases
- Comparing and contrasting texts
- Locating information
- Identifying and using text features
- Explaining the main idea

The focus of our fiction books will be:

- Telling key details about story elements
- Comparing and contrasting characters

We will continue to emphasize using context clues, vocabulary, reading behaviors, and making real life connections in all types of texts.

In writing, science and social studies a main focus is learning about different countries. Students will be engaged in research to identify and write about physical characteristics, climate, vegetation and animal life. They will use geographical tools to locate and describe places. We will also discuss and write about human actions that harm the environment.

We are very proud of how your child is progressing with the new math curriculum. Our topics this quarter will be:

- Measurement
- Addition and subtraction
- Fact families
- Finding the unknown in an equation
- Adding 2 digit numbers

Important Dates

February 14 Valentine's Party 2:00

February 22 4:15-6:15 Smith Center Training – Any parent who has signed up or would like to join us on the Smith Center field trip **MUST** attend this training. Thank you. Details about the trip to follow.

February 24 First/Second Grade Musical
7:00 Briggs Chaney Middle School

