

# SAFARI UPDATE

Classroom Newsletter Week of September 9-13

So sorry for the long newsletter !

Dear Parents,

This week we are starting green reading folders. On Monday, your child will be bringing home this green folder with 3 books inside. I have selected books for each student based on their independent reading level, A through M.

Please make sure your child reads the green folder books each week. Students at levels A-F will benefit from reading each book more than once during the week. Hopefully, their fluency will improve with each reading.

Also inside the folder, will be a reading log for you to sign, and a "Sam the Cat" comprehension page for you to do with your child. You do not need to write the title on the log each time a book is read. Instead, you may use tally marks after the book title, or out in the margin. The folder, and contents, are due back each Friday.

The green folder is designed to provide

reading homework for each weeknight. However, you (parents) can decide what is best for your child and your family's schedule. Please discover ways of engaging with your child over the books, and initiate discussions that will improve your child's comprehension.

Go Colts !,  
Ms. Langworthy

This week in our room...

Spelling - 12 words (6 high frequency, 6 short u )  
Test on Friday.

Week 5 words:

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| 1. friend | 7. up   |
| 2. hold   | 8. bug  |
| 3. full   | 9. mud  |
| 4. many   | 10. nut |
| 5. good   | 11. hug |
| 6. pull   | 12. tub |

Reading - Our theme "Thinking Like a Scientist" begins this week. This Reading/Science Content unit will continue into next week.

In this unit, we will explore what scientists use

- the 5 senses, scientific tools, and inquiry skills. We will use our Fusion workbooks, other texts, and begin a "Science Notebook." Terms we will learn include : senses, observe, predict, classify, record, investigation, hypothesize, and draw conclusions.

(The below reading strategy lends itself best in reading fiction. Due to our science-themed unit, I will be using 'Creating Images' mostly in small group reading and while reading Charlotte's Web aloud to the class. You may also find it easier to emphasize 'Creating Images' while reading the fiction, rather than non-fiction, selections in your child's green folder this week.)

Our Reading Strategy is 'Creating Images.' (a.k.a. Make Mind Pictures) Comprehension is improved when we create images in our minds as we read. It's like making a movie. Picture the setting, and change the picture when the setting changes. Picture the characters, in those settings. Picture yourself in the story. You could be one of the characters, or you could be looking at the scene as a..... bird on a branch, or a spider on the ceiling.

Writing - Sentence structure.

- Personal narrative.
- Adjectives describe nouns

Math - Counting combinations of pennies and nickels.

- Represent an amount with the fewest number of coins.
- Change-to-more (an addition diagram.)
- Change-to-less (a subtraction diagram.)
- Skip counting by 2s, 5s, 10s.

Thank you to everyone who sent in "real money" for Math tools. I am doing my best to keep students' money in separate containers. Due to the Math curriculum, students will be referring to their coins throughout the year. I have provided real pennies for all students, and I have "play money" for all the coins that students are allowed to use. We like students to experience the authentic coins, so we ask that they bring 5 nickels from home. Later in the year, students will be asked to bring dimes and quarters, too. If it is a hardship for you, then please do not send the coins from home. We have plenty of the plastic variety!

Thank you to those who sent in 3 x 5 index cards last week. We are still in need, so the opportunity is still there for those who didn't see my plea, or weren't able to donate last week. Cards can be lined or not, and are for "community use." We need them for Math, Reading, and Spelling activities.

The End