



The Converse Connection

March 2020



Dear Parents,

Happy March! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at STEAM Night on Thursday, March 19th. The month of March will prove to be very busy with celebrations! Parkdale will enjoy many visitors related to Dr. Seuss's birthday, STEAM Night and Poison Prevention & Healthy Choices presented by UB Pharmacy students! Plus, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day and welcome Spring! Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Valentine's Day party. The treats were delicious and our parent volunteers were awesome!



Listening and Learning - We are currently wrapping up the History of the Earth. In our next domain, Animals and Habitats, the children will be introduced to the wonder of the natural world, focusing on the interconnectedness of all living things with their physical environment and with one another. Students will learn what a habitat is and will also learn to identify specific types of habitats and their related characteristics. They will learn to recognize different plants and animals as being indigenous to specific habitats and will begin to develop an understanding of several fundamental principles of nature. They will discover, for example, that animals and plants typically live in those habitats to which they are best suited, often developing unique characteristics or features that enable them to specifically adapt to the climate and conditions of a given environment. They will also be introduced to simple classifications of animals according to the types of food they eat and will begin to understand the notion of a food chain.



Science & Social Studies - We just finished our science unit on Space and Patterns in the Sky. The children should be bringing their astronauts they made soon. Our next unit of study in Social Studies is titled My Country and Me. The main focus of the chapter is understanding symbols, icons and traditions that provide continuity and a sense of community across time. We will sing songs, understand the significance of our national holidays and identify American symbols, landmarks and essential documents. We will also talk about the people related to many historical events.



Reading – The Unit 4, Reader is called The Green Fern Zoo. The main character, Vern, introduces students to all different types of animals, from mandrills to puffins. While Vern is a fictional character, the information in the book is factual, making this an informational text. In this unit, the students will be introduced to the sounds that are sometimes called the /r/ controlled vowel sounds and the most common spelling for each sound:

/er/ spelled 'er' as in her

/ar/ spelled 'ar' as in car

/or/ spelled 'or' as in for



Also in this unit, students will be introduced to two-syllable words. Up to this point, the students have encountered single-syllable words in their Readers. Our grammar unit will include past-tense verbs. For example: smile to smiled, bake to baked and skate to skated. It will be noted that when creating a past-tense verb, the 'e' is dropped in the spelling and 'ed' is added. In addition to the past-tense verb, we will continue to work with nouns and verbs in phrases and will be introduced to adjectives. Verb tenses and the concept of past, present and future will also be discussed.

Unit 4 includes four spelling tests. There is a copy of the lists in the children's Take Home folder. The weekly list will be sent home with the test date recorded by your child. Also, please have your child practice their words on Spelling City. There is a link located on the student portal on the East Aurora School District website. Your child does not have to log-in to Spelling City, it's just a quick click and they are in!

Math - Module 4, Place Value, Comparison, Addition and Subtraction to 40, opens in **Topic A** where students study, organize and manipulate numbers within 40. In **Topic B**, students compare quantities and begin using the symbols for greater than (>) and less than (<). **Topic C** focuses on addition and subtraction of tens. In **Topic D**, students use familiar strategies to add two-digit numbers within 40. In **Topic E**, students consider new ways to represent larger quantities when approaching *put together/take apart with total or addend unknown and add to with result or change unknown* word problems. The module closes with **Topic F**, focusing on adding like place value units as students add two-digit numbers. We may begin Module 5 towards the end of the month. Module five will introduce the children to geometric shapes and telling time.

