



# The Converse Connection

December 2019



Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a fantastic and restful Thanksgiving! Thank you for all of your food donations which will help support the Food Bank of WNY. My first day of parent/teacher conferences went very well. I am looking forward to meeting the rest of you on either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Each morning, before heading out the door, please be sure your child has a pair of shoes (sneakers on B, D & F days - PE) and a snack each day. We have had many friends forgetting one or both of these items!

**Listening & Learning** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> domain is called Different Lands, Similar Stories. This domain will introduce students to three themes in folktales that have been told to children for generations, using variations from different lands and countries. By listening to these stories, students will increase their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, be exposed to different places and cultures from around the world and learn valuable universal lessons. The domain is best understood in thirds. The first three read alouds are all stories about good people who are treated unfairly and ultimately find happiness, with variations set in France, Egypt and Ireland. The stories included are Cinderella, The Girl with Red Slippers and Billy Beg. The next three read alouds are folktales about supernaturally small characters. These include variations set in England, Denmark and Japan. The stories presented are Tom Thumb, Thumbelina and Issun Boshi: The One Inch Boy. The last three read alouds are all folktales about cunning animals who try to trick children, with variations set in Germany, China and Botswana. The children will hear stories about Little Red Riding Hood, Hu Gu Po and Tselane.

**Reading** - In Unit 2, the Reader is called **Gran**. **Gran** is about a well-traveled grandmother who visits her two grandchildren, Josh and Jen. There are story question worksheets included for most stories. We will complete the worksheets in class, teaching the children how to echo the question in their answer and using complete sentences. At home, please encourage your child to discuss the story with you, using the comprehension questions as a guide. The worksheets are meant to give students extra practice with concepts taught in the unit. Rereading the stories will help students with fluency. The grammar lessons in Unit 2 focus on nouns, including proper nouns and sentence building. Tricky words that will be introduced are high-frequency words. The tricky words included are: he, she, be, me, we, they, their, my, by, you and your.

**Math** - We have begun Unit 2 which includes 11 lessons. Learning objectives for Unit 2 are to:

1. Solve word problems with three addends, two of which make 10
2. Use the associative and commutative properties to make 10 with three addends
3. Make 10 when one addend is 9
4. Compare efficiency of counting on and making 10 when one addend is 9
5. Use the commutative property to make 10
6. Make 10 when one addend is 8
7. Compare efficiency of counting on and making 10 when one addend is 8
8. Solve problems with addends of 7, 8 and 9

Please continue to encourage your child to use the website posted on my district website called Freckle. It is a kid friendly website, which offers adaptive lessons to build foundational skills. Freckle will allow each child to practice math skills at their level. The website will also give me insight as to how much their skills are growing and where they can use extra help. The web address is:

<https://student.freckle.com/#/login>. To log-in, the children will need to enter our classcode which is **convez** and then click on their name. Please allow your child to explore the math portion of the website at least once a week. The log-in information is taped in their Take Home folder on the Keep at Home pocket.

**Recreation** - With the wet ground, it is important that all the children have a pair of boots in school to use during recreation. When the children wear their sneakers outside at recreation, we have an incredible amount of mud tracked all over the classroom floor in the afternoon. We will go outside for recreation even when it is snowing. In order for your child to be able to participate, he/she must have a coat, snow pants, hat, mittens/gloves and boots. If you wish to leave a pair of boots and snow pants at school, your child may keep them stored in their cubby.

**Holiday Party - Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 PM**

Goodies - William & Ethan

Cups - Daniel

Healthy Snacks - Hazel, Ophelia, Samantha & Olivia

Plates & Napkins - Kasia

Drinks - Avery & Ben

Helpers - Sarah Orcutt (craft planner), Jaclyn Mozg, Amy Holtz,  
Melissa & Steve Bailey, Mary Nuttle, Shannon Beiter, Kate Perusich,  
Kristel Dedrick & Bethany Whitehead

