



The Converse Connection

February 2020



Dear Parents,

The next several weeks will prove to be very busy with celebrations! We will celebrate Valentine's Day, George Washington and Abe Lincoln's birthdays along with President's Day and 100th Day (Friday, February 14th)! I will be collecting Box Tops through Friday, February 14th. If you have any at home, please send them in as soon as possible! Thanks!

Listening and Learning - In this domain, History of the Earth, students will learn about the geographical features of the earth's surface. They will also learn about the inside of the Earth and characteristics of its various layers. The domain focuses on the geographical features of the Earth's surface and the layers of Earth. Students will learn about the shape of Earth, the North and South Poles, and the equator. Students will also learn the names of the layers of earth - the crust, the mantle and the core - and characteristics of each layer. Student will learn how occurrences such as volcanoes and geysers give information about the layers of the earth. The read alouds also focus on minerals and rocks. Students will learn about the importance of rocks and minerals in their daily lives. They will also learn about the three types of rocks and characteristics of each type. Students will learn how rocks and minerals are taken from the Earth's crust to be used by people. Students will also learn about fossils and their importance in giving us knowledge about the history of living things on the Earth.



Reading - We continue to work in Unit 3, **Fables**. Students will practice newly learned decoding skills while reading stories from **Fables**.



The book is comprised of decodable versions of famous fables, most of which are originally attributable to the ancient Greek storyteller Aesop. Fables are special types of stories that teach important lessons or morals. Fables often feature talking animals as main characters. **Fables** will be used in a variety of instructional groupings, including whole group, small group, partner reading and independent reading. We have begun to have spelling tests. Students may use Vocabulary Spelling City to study for their tests. The children may access the website from the student portal on the East Aurora District website. There is a Spelling City icon which will lead them to my direct Spelling City page. There is not an individual log-in for my students. The website address is:

www.spellingcity.com/users/bconverse. The grammar exercises in Unit 3 focus on

verb identification and verb tense. Students will practice identifying whether a verb represents an action that is happening in the present or one that happened in the past.

Math – We are currently exploring Module 3. This module will extend students' Kindergarten experiences with direct length comparison to the new learning of indirect comparison whereby the length of one object is used to compare the lengths of two other objects. For example, "My string is longer than your book. Your book is longer than my pencil. That means my string is longer than my pencil." The lesson objectives for Module 3 are:

1. Compare length directly & consider the importance of aligning endpoints.
2. Compare length using indirect comparison by finding objects *longer than, shorter than and equal in length* to that of a string.
3. Order three lengths using indirect comparison.
4. Find the length of an object using centimeter cubes.
5. Rename and measure with centimeter cube.
6. Order, measure and compare the length of an object.
7. When measuring the same objects, understand the need to use the same unit of measure when comparing measurements.
8. Collect, sort and organize data.
9. Ask and answer varied word problems.

Please continue to encourage your child to use the website posted on my teacher webpage 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: student.freckle.com/#/login. To log in, your child will need to enter their first and last name. **The class code is convez.** Please allow your child to explore the math portion of the website at least once a week.

Valentine's Day Party - Our party is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th from 1-2 PM. Due to the snowday in November and changing the letter day, the party time has changed from 2-3 PM to 1-2 PM. The children may bring Valentine's in for their classmates. A class list is located in their Take Home folder on the second page (our class schedule page). Below is a list of volunteers:

Goodies: Samantha & Adam

Healthy Snacks: Olivia, Hazel & Ophelia

Drinks: Kasia & Ben

Party Volunteers: Sarah Orcutt, Bethany Whitehead, Amy Holtz, Nancy Idland, Erin Hannon & Mary Nuttle



Cups: Daniel

Plates: Avery

Napkins: William