



The Converse Connection

January 2020



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! It was very nice to meet everyone during parent/teacher conferences last month. I enjoyed our conversations and learning more about my students. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped out at our holiday party! Each day, we have a busy day and the children work very hard! Soon the children will have a new experience when we begin spelling tests. Each test will include eight words. The children will have access to a website called Spelling City to practice their spelling words. Log-in information will be available once the first test has been scheduled.



Listening and Learning - This domain goes nicely with our Science unit on Patterns in the Sky. Students will be introduced to the solar system - our home in space. They will learn that Earth, the planet on which we live, is just one of many different celestial bodies within the solar system. They will learn how the sun, the stars, the moon and the other planets relate to the earth (given its position in space). In the early story read-alouds, students will learn that the sun is a giant star as well as a source of light, heat and energy for the earth. They will also learn about the earth's orbit around the sun, and how the earth's own rotation on its axis leads to the phenomenon of day and night.

Part of this domain is focused on the history of space exploration and the missions to the moon. Students will learn about NASA, the Space Race, the Apollo missions and what it takes to be an astronaut. Students will receive an introduction to the basics of Astronomy. This foundation will be built upon when students study the solar system in much greater depth in the third grade.



Reading - We will finish Unit 2, *Gran*, about mid-January. In Unit 3, the Reader is called **Fables**. Students will practice newly learned decoding skills while reading stories from **Fables**. The Reader 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. In Unit 3, we will begin having weekly spelling

tests. The Spelling lists are located in the children's Take Home folder. 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 about mid-point through Module 2 and will begin to explore Module 3 soon. 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 the district webpage and 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.

