



The Converse Connection

January 2021



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season with family and friends. Please note that I have signed up for the children to have a 20 minute recess time on every Friday. Please be sure they are prepared for the weather with a winter coat, snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves and a hat.



Listening and Learning - During the months of January and February, the children will learn about The Human Body. They will be introduced to different body systems, ways to stay healthy and the importance of visiting the doctor for annual check-ups. The lessons are exactly what they are called, listening and learning. Each lesson includes pictures, which follow along with a story that the first grade teachers have made into movies. The movies are posted on my Google Classroom under the Listening & Learning tab. **Your children should be watching a movie from this unit, *The Human Body*, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.** I do have additional information regarding this unit posted on my teacher webpage, located on Parkdale's homepage.



Reading - 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. Please note, the best way to prepare for our spelling tests is on Spelling City, a website posted on my Google Classroom. There are numerous games and activities (they can even take a practice test) on the website. 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 almost finished with Module 2 and will begin to explore Module 3 soon. Module 3 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 using centimeter cubes.
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 practice their math skills on the Freckle website. Freckle 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. On your child's homepage, there is an icon for Freckle for them to simply click on. There is not a username or password, which is awesome! In order to use the Freckle website, they **MUST** be on their personal Chromebook. The website will not automatically log them in unless they are logged on their personal Chromebook. Please allow your child to explore the math portion of the website a few times a week.

