



The Converse Connection

October 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Converse Connection newsletter. In addition to this newsletter, be sure to check my teacher webpage for important updates and curriculum information. **Please encourage your child to share their daily take home folder with you.** Inside, you will find papers we have completed in school. Also, on Tuesday, your child will bring home their W.O.W. (Work on Wednesday) folder. The work included in this folder needs to be completed on Wednesday, our remote day of school, and returned to school on Thursday.

Listening and Learning - These lessons are exactly what they are called, listening and learning. It involves visual pictures that follow along with a story that are read to the children. I have posted additional information about this unit on my teacher webpage. This unit entitled Astronomy, pairs 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 - Unit 1 serves as a review for students who completed the Common Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Kindergarten program. Students will review the sounds and spellings taught while attending Kindergarten. We also will read decodable stories from Snap Shots. We will be reviewing the five short vowel sounds and twenty-five consonant sounds. We are also working on "Tricky Words". Tricky words refer to a word that cannot be sounded out using the letter-sound correspondences that students have been taught so far. Tricky words included in Unit 1 are: a, I, no, so, of, is, all, some, from, word, are, were, have, one, once, to, do, two, who, the, said, says, was, when, where, why, what, which, here and there. There is a list of all the Tricky Words in the Take Home folder.

Math - Currently in Unit 1, we are working with Sums and Differences to 10. In this first module of Grade 1, students will make significant progress towards fluency with addition and subtraction of numbers to 10 as they are presented with opportunities intended to advance them from counting all to counting on. Please visit my teacher webpage for additional information about each math unit.

Social Studies - Units of study this year will be All About Me, Rules and Laws, Where People Live, We Love Our Country, Our Changing World, Meeting People, The Market Place and Character Education. During the school year, we will alternate between units in Social Studies and Science. Many lessons will be included in the weekly At-home packets that the children work on while they are at home on regular school days. Later in the school year, many of our social studies lessons will be created in an interactive book made by the students.

Science - The first grade science curriculum includes Light, Sound, Patterns in the Sky and Exploring Organisms. Our science program is taught using science resources such as Mystery Science and teacher created materials. Many lessons will be included in the weekly At-home packets that the children work on while they are at home on regular school days. Our first unit will be Patterns in the Sky, the study of the Solar System.



Google Meets - Please be sure that when your child is participating in a Google Meet, they are in a quiet space with no distractions such as family pets, siblings or background noises. They also should be able to "pin" me when I am reading a book and know how to turn on and off the microphone. If they are unavailable to attend a Google Meet, please complete the attendance sheet on my Google Classroom, under the W.O.W. tab. The form involves typing their name, clicking done and then submit! Thanks for your help!

Halloween Parade - Parkdale plans to host an outside Halloween parade (weather permitting) on Friday, October 30th. Ms. Lyons will share additional details later in the month. Unfortunately, there will not be a Halloween party.

