



Room 109 Weekly Update

September 29, 2023

Heggerty - This week, we are starting to get into a groove with the Heggerty routine. Students have been more successful in demonstrating beginning and ending sounds (with the hand motions), blending phoneme sounds together to make words, and creating rhyming word families. First month down and we are really getting down to business. Looking forward to more auditory learning as we move through the school year!

Foundations - This week we finished Unit 1 of our Foundations program. This unit is essentially a review of the written component of writing and sound knowledge. We have been working hard on proper letter formation and spelling practice activities to help us become experts on spelling trick words automatically (which also helps us read them automatically - love how this strategy is efficient and effective!). Next week is the first week of October and we will be starting to hold students accountable for spelling these trick words accurately. We will start easily with a review of the kindergarten words. We have been already practicing some of these words in class, so for this first week there will be 6 words to practice! But I know with our practice in class already, you will be impressed with how many your child knows already!

Reading Workshop: During Reading Workshop, we have been continuing to build our reading skills through word work and independent reading. We have been working on reading actual physical books, but also learning how to utilize our computers to help us engage in listening to reading using the Storyline Online Format and Tumblebooks format. Listening to reading is a beneficial activity to help young readers hear fluent reading, build their listening vocabulary and stamina, and let students enjoy a variety of books/topics that they may not be ready to read independently yet! We are totally rocking how to use our computers! I am very impressed. In addition, our stamina is up to 12 minutes! Way to go!

We have also been continuing to learn about the different genres. So far, we have focused a lot on one of the two narrative genres (Character, Problem, Solution Narratives) and Informational texts. We have read about Johnny Appleseed as well as texts in our classroom newspaper Scholastic News! We will also be learn more about the other narrative genre (Personal Experience genre) and some Opinion genre writing in the future.

Writing We have been working very hard with our writing. We have continued to be practicing how to express our ideas in complete thoughts both orally and in writing. We have been making sure that our sentences have a "Who?" (subject of the sentence) and the "Did What?" (the action of the sentence). We are using appropriate strategies to help us spell unfamiliar words as we "give them a try." Next week, as we start our first week of assigned "Trick Words," these are what I call NO EXCUSE WORDS. As we put these words up on our word wall in the classroom, any writing that uses any of these words is expected to be spelled correctly. Although we are working to know how to spell these words accurately on our own, if students need the support to remember how to spell words, it is posted for their reference. In this way, there is "no excuse" that these words are spelling incorrectly from the point when they are introduced. You will see your child's writing vocabulary and spelling grow so much this year. Please also hold these words accountable in any writing your child does at home. 😊

Math - We have finished administering beginning of year math assessments and learning the expectations of independent work/partner work skills for math workshop. We have just started our first unit on Concrete Addition and Subtraction. In this unit, our objective is to learn vocabulary that will help us to identify the different components of an addition sentence and a subtraction sentence. We will be learning how these 2 operations differ and make sure that we pay close attention to the symbols. We will be using tools to help strengthen student understanding of these very abstract concepts. Wait until you see how much your child will learn about addition and subtraction!

Other news - September has flown by! I can't believe it will already be October when we return to school after the weekend. Our schedule has been jam packed with learning objectives, so it is very important to keep our learning focus and use our time on task effectively. We have been working very hard on this, but it is helpful for families to please remind their child that his/her job at school is to do his/her best learning and save the side conversations for more appropriate times so we don't detract from the learning of others. I appreciate your help!

Unfortunately, Mrs. St. Germain was absent this week, so we will have our first Library class on the next Day 4 of our cycle, which will be Wednesday, October 4th.

Our first field trip has been scheduled for Friday October 13th to Carlson Orchards. The permission slip is in your child's backpack today. Due to the scarcity of apples this year, I apologize for the short turnaround for slips to be returned, but we didn't want to miss out on this opportunity! Please be sure to return the permission slip by next Wednesday, October 4th!

Finally, please be sure that your family contact information is included in the school-wide Friendship Book. This is an electronic resource that is a great way to keep our community and classroom connected. It has contact information for families which is very helpful when trying to schedule playdates, carpooling, or get together. It also helps our Room Parents (Angela Behling/Ray's mom and Lindsay Carpentier/Maddox's mom) to have your information to be able to include you in class-wide communications or if needed, in emergencies to relay information. Please use the link below to complete your information if you have not done so already. Thank you so much for your help!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rE9NhDnczdP4qRghv_WD1G1D0oG9ma14pqfWYP_InAU/viewform?edit_requested=true.

Thanks for your help and support! It is a true learning partnership but working together we will accomplish amazing things this year!

April Fuller