This Week in Grade 4 McConaghy Monday, October 22 – Friday, October 26, 2018

I would like to congratulate all my students on the fantastic job during Safe School Week. I am very proud of each and every students! They made me very proud!

**Reminders**

Picture Orders / Retake requests due back tomorrow – Monday, October 22

Zones of Regulation Family Night Wednesday, October 25

Cafeteria Lunch Orders due Thursday, October 25

Family Fun Night - Friday October, 26 from 6:00 – 7:30

**Literacy**

Monday, October 22 is going to be a very exciting day in our class. We have finished reading City of Ember. Tomorrow we are going to watch the movie City of Ember. On Tuesday, we will compare and contrast the book version of City of Ember and the movie version of The City of Ember. Comparing and contrasting is one of the Curriculum Outcomes for Grade 4. My students are really looking forward to watching the movie!

This week, I will be assessing Comprehension skills related to a given article. This is to inform me in regards to what element of Comprehension I need to reteach / focus on. This will be sent home to be signed and returned.

We will continue to learn about Theme, making Inferences. I will also introduce Connecting the Text. I will provide more information regarding Connecting to Text once I have introduced it. These are concepts that are required to answer Comprehension Questions when being assessed on Reading Levels.

**Read Aloud**

We will finish activities related to **City of Ember** and start a new novel. We have a class discussion regarding what novel to Read Aloud next. I will let you know what novel we selected. Students really enjoy being read to on a Daily Basis. I often share picture books with students to reinforce a concept we are learning about. You are never too old to enjoy a picture book! You are also never too old to be read to!

Students are expected to continue to read every night for twenty minutes. One suggestion would be to select a novel and have your child read the novel to you on a nightly basis. For those who really enjoyed The City of Ember there are two other books in the series. They can be purchased at Chapters or can be borrowed from my Library Collection.

In **Grammar,** we continue to learn about and practice identifying Synonyms, Homophones. We will also be introduced to Alliterations. Alliterations are when two or more nearby words have the same beginning sounds. For example, Natalie nibbled noodles. Tongue twisters would be examples of Alliterations.

**Writing**

Our focus in writing is **Word Choice.** Using picture books students are being exposed to a wide variety of powerful words. That is words to use instead of overused words such as said, went, answer. The objective is to include interesting, powerful, descriptive words in writing to make writing more interesting. Word Choice is one of the six elements of The 6 Traits of Writing. The Rubric that is used to mark pieces of writing is based on The 6 Traits of Writing.

Students are also working on making a plan before starting a piece of writing Think about the 5 W’s; who, what, when, where and how.

On Friday’s students have Free Write time. They are permitted to write about whatever they wish. They write a nonfiction piece of writing, a fiction piece, a letter, a list. They are free to explore whatever style of writing interests them.

**Science**

The focus in Science has been on Habitat. This week we will end our unit on Habitat. To conclude our unit on Habitats students will be working on an in class report on a specific Habitat. This will involve using websites and books to locate specific information about assigned Habitats. This is an intergraded activity involving science, Nonfiction Writing and Reading. Students will learn how to conduct research a topic and how to record information without copying word from word from the source.

In Stem /Steam this week we will be conducting activities / experiments based on the Sinking of the Titanic. This will also be a integrated activity. We will read about the Titanic, learn interesting facts about the Titanic, conduct research on The Titanic and perform experiments related to the sinking of The Titanic.

**Health**

We have spent time learning about Mindfulness and calming techniques. We will continue to learn about being Mindful and practicing self-calming techniques. Students have also been introduced to The Seven Habits for Children. They were quickly introduced to the Seven Habits. We are presently focusing on **Begin With The End in Mind.** This Habit applies to everything we do. This is a term I like to use over and over again in writing. We will continue to learn about and practice Begin with the in Mind!

**Zones of Regulation**

We have started to discuss/ learn about The Zones of Regulation. Throughout the year we will continue to learn about and refer to The Zones of Regulation. Mr. Campbell will visit our class this week to do a lesson on Zones of Regulation.

I would encourage all parents to attend our Zones of Regulation Family Night. This is a valuable tool for all to learn about Self-Regulation. We need to be able to identify what Zone we are in and how we can self-regulate / self-alm to be in the Green Zone. This is a wonderful tool to use when situations are escalating. It is a common language that everyone can use. Imagine you are in a store and your child has spotted something he/ she wants. You say no. The child is not happy about this and begins to escalate. Zones of Regulation can be applied to destress this situation.

**Family Fun Night**

Family Fun Night is a huge fundraiser for Home and School. Remember that funds raised by Home and School are invested back into Barkers Point School. Funds can be used to repair playground equipment, buy playground equipment, to buy new resources for the school, purchase new books, update the Library, help with the cost of special events, and provide partial funding for year end activities / trips. In order to make Family Fun Night a success volunteers are needed to supervise / lead activities. Parents are asked to commit to a half hour to help out. The number of activities that are available depend upon how many volunteers there are. Please volunteer to do a shift Friday night. It is not only a fun evening but it a fund raising event. I will be volunteering for the evening. I hope I see some parents from 4 McConaghy, volunteering their time. I understand that you want to enjoy your evening with your children. Please remember so do those who are running the event and other volunteers. Let’s work together to this event a success!

Don’t forget to pre-order your tickets. The pre-order form is on the Home Page of the BPS Website and a copy was sent home on Friday.

**Halloween**

It is hard to believe that it is time to think about Halloween! We will have a small Halloween celebration. Only HEALTH Treats will be permitted. This comes under Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds. I will provide more information regarding Halloween Treats, what can be passed out and what cannot be passed out. Students are not permitted to wear costumes. They are encouraged to dress in orange, white, black or red. The Theme of Halloween will be used in all subject areas on Halloween with special learning activities. There will not be a Halloween Party! Stay tuned for details!

 **Dress for the Weather**

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. I know that at this age students get themselves dressed for school and the outside. Perhaps, some reminders would be helpful. When students arrive in the morning it is certainly cold on the playground. If it warms up at recess or noon students can remove a layer of clothes. Please remind your child to dress in layers. Mittens and hats are required first thing in the morning. Several children are also complaining about cold wet feet. The grass is certainly wet first thing in the morning and remains wet during recess. It is no fun having to wear wet socks all day long!

Have a wonderful week and stay in touch!

Mary Ann