

# Our Classroom News

Ms. Austin – Mrs. Berry – Mrs. Bygrave – Ms. Jackson

## What's Happening This Month

- January Book it Program – due February 2
- January 2: Staff/ Student Holiday
- January 3: Teacher workday
- January 4: School resumes
- January 12: Report Cards issued
- January 13: Professional Development for teachers – ½ day for students (11:00 dismissal)
- January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

## Important Information

- Mid year assessments will be ongoing in the month of January. These assessments are necessary to gauge the growth and progress of your child's learning while also offering insight into our classroom on areas of concern. Students at this age do not often take the assessments seriously – some are computerized and others are face to face reading which gives us an authentic look at fluency as well as comprehension. Please encourage your child to take their time with these assessments. They do become part of your child's record and reflect on the overall progress of our school.
- Mid year is also a great time to take inventory of your child's supplies – restocking crayons, markers, scissors, glue, wipes, tissue, pencils and paper. All donations for the good of the classroom are much appreciated!

## A Peek At What We Are Learning This Month

ELA/ Writing

The third quarter of English will focus on author's craft – the use of text structures and figurative language, understanding how an author intends his/ her writing to be interpreted. In addition, students will enjoy writing persuasive pieces. Sharing opinions is fun and a strong opinion = a well thought out essay. By this time, students are expected to write not just well crafted paragraphs but also be able to organize a three paragraph essay. Our animal research projects were a culminating activity of using our knowledge of text features while researching an animal of choice and sharing information in a meaningful way.

Math

Our current unit in math is division. For students who have shown mastery of their multiplication tables this will not be difficult as division is an inverse operation of multiplication. Unfortunately, many of our students still do not show fluency with multiplying. Division will be taught up to dividing four digit numbers by 1 digit numbers. The methods are different from the way you were instructed as students, so allow your child the ability and responsibility of showing you new tricks to solve division problems!

Science

We are completing our unit on earth science with a close look at the moon and its phases. Students will be expected to recognize the monthly lunar cycle. As we look at the moon, we will also be identifying the role of the Earth's rotation and revolution in both a 24 hour day and night cycle as well as a 365 day annual cycle that create our four seasons.

Social Studies

As we move from the colonization of the original 13 colonies, we will be discussing the role of slavery in the formation of our country as well as the road to independence from Great Britain. Colonies became self-sufficient and resented the taxes and authority from across the ocean. July 4, 1776 will take on a new importance to our students studying U.S. History!

## Character Trait of the Month

**Responsibility** was the Caughman Road character trait for the month of December. Responsibility is the ability of a student to be trustworthy and accountable. Congratulations to our Comets of the Month: **Keaton Jackson, Eli Cherry, Noah Alisson, Hailey Dowdy, Melicah Belton, Aubrey Jackson, DeArie Smith, Stephanie Medina Rodriguez**