

September

Waite Park
Community School
Room 104

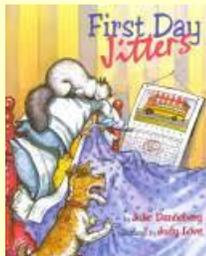
September 2016

Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

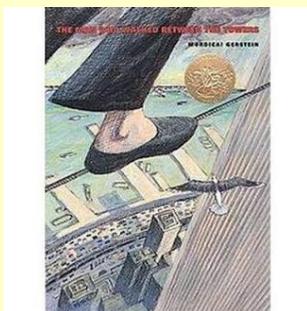
Reading

What are the characteristics of a good reader, writer, speaker, and listener? How do we use reading, writing, listening and speaking to learn about others and our world? These are two essential questions we will explore in our first literacy unit, "Establishing Readers and Writers Workshop."

We have been reading a variety of stories during our literacy block. *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg, was a silly story we discussed on the first day, acknowledging the feelings that many people have when entering into a new situation.



Contrasting that, we also read *The Man who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein. This story not only recalls an event in history, it is also exciting!



Throughout the year, we will delve deeply into books from a variety of genres.

I have also been reading individually and discussing stories with each student. This process helps me become familiar with the unique skills of each student. It also helps us get to know each other a little better.

Writing

We start each day writing in our journals. Already, the routine is established and I have observed excellent effort in creating high quality entries. The students have all sorts of big ideas and captivating topics for their writing! Throughout the year, we will strive to find our "voice" and hone skills of putting our thoughts into words, emphasizing key writing elements. Each entry consists of the date, writing, and an illustration. We share out at the end of each session. Your child has chosen which day he or she will be sharing.

Math

Our first math unit, Number and Operation I, encourages a plethora of engaging activities to help solidify number sense. So far we have been establishing routines for our math workshop. Through games, circle discussions, and using manipulatives, we solve math problems. We have been counting and studying our 1 more/1 less, and 10 more/10 less. We will solve a variety of conceptual math problems throughout the year. I have been meeting individually, counting with students and learning about their math thinking.

Social Studies

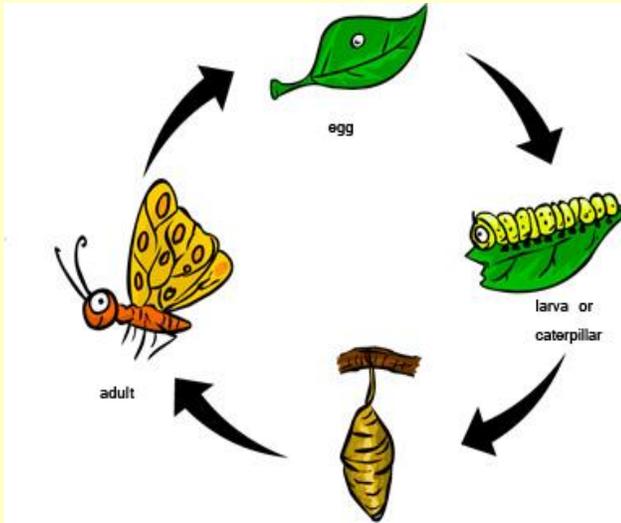
Our first unit is "Civic Skills." In it, we are establishing classroom routines and expectations together. After discussing our hopes and dreams for both second grade and beyond, we determined that being "Respectful, Appropriate, Positive and Patient" are the four main headers for our classroom ambience. The students illustrated some examples of how these look. I think we're off to a great start!

Student Teacher

Miss Savannah Fultz has been working in Room 104 since the first day of school. She graduated from the University of St. Thomas last spring and is completing her final classroom clinical experience with us. She will be here until December.

Science

Our first unit in science is about "Life Cycles." Timing for this couldn't be better as I notice milkweed and butterflies outside wherever I go! Mrs. Nelson, one of our Waite Park ESL teachers, will be joining us on Wednesdays for science.



Reminders

- Return Important Waite Park Forms.
- Sign up for conferences! You will find the online sign up for "Fall Conferences" on the school website.

Go to <http://waitepark.mpls.k12.mn.us>

Click on Fall Conference Sign Up link.

Please let me know if you have difficulty with this online process.

Thanks for all of the supplies you have sent to school with your child!

If possible, please send:

- individual pencil sharpeners
- \$2 for Science Journal

1st Quarter Specialist Schedule

2:30-3:25

Monday

Media with Ms. McEathron

Tuesday

P.E. with Ms. Tollefson Jackson

Wednesday

Art with Ms. Hubert

Thursday

Music with Mr. Worrell

Friday

Art with Ms. Hubert

Upcoming Events

Classroom Guest Teacher – 6 sessions!
Simply Good Eating, U of M Extension
CNE Educator: Roger Dahmen

Wednesday, September 14 (first lesson)

Fall Conferences

Thursday, October 13, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, October 18, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, October 19, 7:50 am – 3:50 pm

Thank you!