

# September

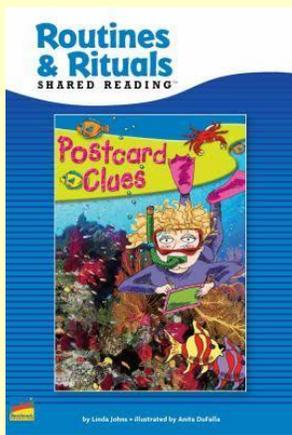
Waite Park  
Community School  
Room 104

September 2017

## Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

### Reading

We have been reading a variety of stories during our first days of school while we are getting acquainted with each other. Minneapolis Public Schools has adopted a new reading series this year, Benchmark Advance. This curriculum begins the first 20 days with establishing our Reader's Workshop routines. If we all know our roles and responsibilities during this block of time, a lot of learning can occur. Our first official story from the series was a big book called *Postcard Clues* by Linda Johns.



In this story, the main character, Sarah, traveled to many interesting places around the world and sent her friend Sam postcards with clues about where she visited. This story was a great basis for conversation within Room 104. We made connections, we did math while trying to figure out the clues, and we also looked at maps. Benchmark embeds many subject areas within reading lessons. Unit One is entitled, "Government at Work," so this integrates our social studies curriculum. I look forward to working with this new reading series.

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

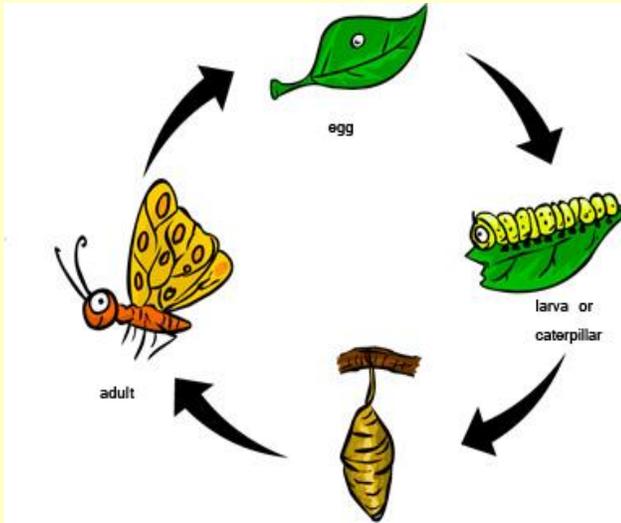
Our first math unit, Number and Operation I, encourages a plethora of engaging activities to help solidify number sense. So far we have been establishing routines for our math workshop. Through games, circle discussions, and using manipulatives, we solve math problems. We have been counting and studying 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 rituals and expectations together. We have discussed our hopes and dreams for both second grade and beyond. We made a "Y Chart" that shows what we believe Room 104 should *look like*, *sound like*, and *feel like*. Above our lockers, we have displayed our beautiful self-portraits. This project, along with conversations of self-reflection and how we all fit into Room 104 helps us create a foundation for learning. Starting our day with a "morning meeting" is one routine that helps us build community.

## 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! We have two chrysalises and one caterpillar and we will watch the Monarchs emerge in time for their migration south.



## 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

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Specialist Schedule

2:30-3:25

**Monday**

Media with Ms. McEathron

**Tuesday**

Art with Ms. Hubert

**Wednesday**

P.E. with Ms. Tollefson

**Thursday**

Media with Ms. McEathron

**Friday**

Music with Mr. Thomas

## Upcoming Events

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

Wednesday, September 13 (first lesson)

**Fall Conferences**

Thursday, October 12, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, October 17, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Wednesday, October 18, 7:50 am – 12:00 pm

**Thank you!**