

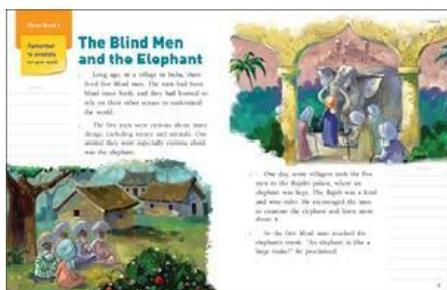
# Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

## Reading

Our Benchmark reading curriculum focuses on one unit for approximately four weeks. We are already on Unit 4, "Many Characters, Many Points of View." In this unit, we are reading and comparing selections with varying points of view and analyzing how point of view affects the reader's understanding of a story. Our essential question is, "How can a story change depending on who tells it?" This has opened up a multitude of connections to our everyday lives.



In our very first text, *The Blind Men and the Elephant*, we could easily understand how different perspectives made a difference. This folktale brought the concept to life as we imagined how each perspective made sense.



We are listening to ideas from classmates and teachers about our writing. Each student who shares asks a series of five questions (like, observe, notice, infer, improve). By asking and answering a variety of questions, we think more deeply about what we write. It's been very positive! We're conscious about adding details that help the reader understand our narratives. We are also focusing on punctuation.

## Math

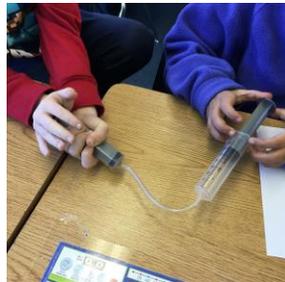
We are exploring groups of tens and hundreds to represent three-digit numbers. We are building and identifying these quantities as we find numbers on grids and use place value charts. We are each creating our own "Thousand Chart." We are also continuing our work with solving word problems, realizing there is more than one correct way to solve the question, discovering ways that are efficient. Basic math facts continue to be an area of focus. Making addition and subtraction facts automatic is emphasized, noting that this saves time when contemplating bigger math problems.

## Social Studies

A theme of our economics unit is the cost and benefit in decisions we make. We've integrated this unit into our daily lives in the classroom by creating a helper schedule. Together we listed important things to do, and now students have assigned jobs, some rotating. This has been very helpful to our daily routine. We are all contributing.

## Science

How does air affect a parachute? Through various experiments, we have discovered that air plays a crucial part in how some things work. We built parachutes and are using other tools to observe how air interacts with these things, and what we can learn about air by noticing what happens. We continue to study the weather on and enter the temperature on our daily calendar.



## Reminder

It's cold weather season!  
Please remember your warm coats, hats,  
scarves, mittens, snow pants and boots.



## Quarter 2 Schedule 2:30-3:25

Monday:  
P.E. with Ms. Tollefson  
Tuesday:  
Art with Ms. Hubert  
Wednesday:  
Media/Tech  
with Ms. McEathron  
Thursday:  
Music with Mr. Thomas  
Friday:  
P.E. with Ms. Tollefson

### No School:

Monday, Jan. 15  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Thursday, Jan. 25  
Teacher Professional Dev.  
Friday, Jan. 26  
Record Keeping Day