

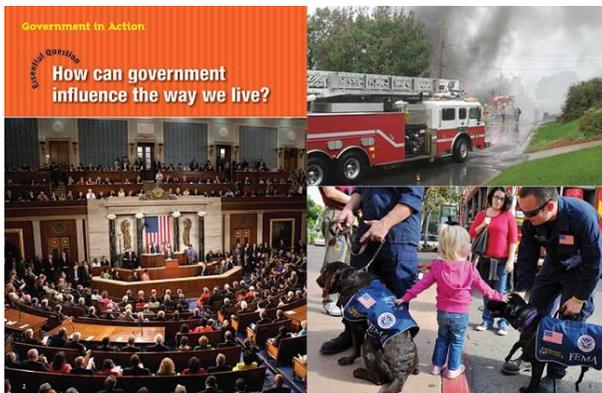


## Ms. Monson's Classroom Newsletter

### Reading

In the first 15 days of school, we have been establishing rituals and routines. Each week through conferences in October, you will receive weekly check-in notes (to be signed and returned). These will give you an idea about how your student is acclimating to the new school year. Our Benchmark reading program actually begins the year with us working diligently to get routines established. That said, during our Reader's Workshop, the students will transition with efficiency and know what to do.

Our first unit is called "Government in Action," with the essential question: How can government influence the way we live? In this unit, students will read and compare selections about the different things governments do to understand how governments influence our lives.



### Writing

Students have been writing for a variety of purposes already. Our daily journals are personal narratives, stories where we think back to an experience, and write about it. We use descriptive words and answer "who, what, when, where, and why/emotion" questions about it. I've seen excellent writing! All of the students have shown pieces that are well done. On the first day of school, everyone wrote a short narrative about a moment from their summer vacation. This was another success, and our goal is to nurture writing stamina.

### Math

In math, we are focusing on place value and multiplication. These concepts will be very important for the math we do all year. I've observed students successfully solving basic multiplication facts. The next step is to memorize them. Knowing facts automatically will help as we move toward complex math problems.

### Back to School

We have started the school year strong! We wrote descriptive "I Am" poetry, accompanied by self-portraits. We studied a big list of descriptive words and each student chose two words that stood out to them, as how they see themselves. We created a bulletin board highlighting this bank of powerful and positive words. Ask your student about these words! As is typical of any back to school week, we've also done various academic screenings to help us get an idea of skill levels, strengths, and academic areas to work on in math and reading.

### Science

We are starting our year with a unit entitled "Energy & Electromagnetism." Students study that electricity and magnetism are very closely related and together are called electromagnetism. Electromagnetism is responsible for many things we experience in our lives (everyday life, nature and technology). Everything that happens involves transferring or transforming energy. Energy can be transferred via electromagnetic forces. Energy is always conserved; it is neither created nor destroyed.

### Reminder

Homework will go home on Mondays, due the following Monday.

### *Quarter 1 Schedule* 9:10-10:05

Monday: Music with Mr. Thomas

Tuesday: Art with Ms. Hubert

Wednesday: Media/Tech  
with Ms. McEathron

Thursday: P.E. with Ms. Tollefson

Friday: Music with Mr. Thomas