

# Hampton Primary School

"Let Your Dreams Take Flight"

## December 2018 First Grade Newsletter

### Project Based Learning

We recently started on our second PBL project! Our Science Unit is entitled "Sound and Light". Students are exploring, through inquiry based investigations, the components of sound. Learners will imagine, plan, construct and discuss sounds in a variety of environments and create instruments.



### Language Arts

Skills:

- Blend two to four phonemes into recognizable words.
- Increase sight word vocabulary.
- Read aloud independently unfamiliar guided reading books that students have previewed silently on their own, use intonation, pauses and emphasis that signal the meaning of the text.
- Write in complete sentences.

### Math



- solve addition and subtraction word problems
- measure using nonstandard units
- organize and interpret data
- identify time to the hour

### Science



Skills:

- compare and contrast the relationship between sound and light
- explore and write about science findings
- collaborate with peers and use 21st Century Learning Skills appropriately during discussions

### Social Studies

Skills:



- compare and contrast life in various communities
- obtain information using oral sources
- research the significance of national holidays

### PTA Update:



Hampton PTA will be gift wrapping at the North Post PX on December 13, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Things to Remember

- First Grade Winter Concert is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- Winter Break is from December 19<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- School resumes Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## THE FIRST GRADE TEAM

Ms. Baldwin      Ms. Barnwell      Ms. Chisholm      Ms. Delgado      Ms. Hillman-Ford  
Ms. Gutierrez      Ms. McMillan      Ms. Northe      Ms. Struck

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Dear Hampton Families,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Plants and Animals Grow and Change.” We’re excited to begin our third unit in the Benchmark Advance program. As with the previous units, we are providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class. In this unit, students will learn how living things grow and change. For example, they will read informational texts about the life cycle of a frog and an oak tree. They will also explore fiction, fables, and poetry featuring living things that grow and change. This unit is sure to inspire deeper interest in a fascinating topic that you can explore further at home. As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Topic Connection</b> “Plant It!”</p> <p>To see a life cycle in action, grow a plant with your child. Purchase a package of seeds and plant them in a cup, pot, your yard, or a community garden. Help your child record her process step by step. Then create a chart for your child to observe and record the plant’s growth. Include a space for date and description. She may draw and/or write her observations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vocabulary Connection</b> “Word Hunt”</p> <p>Your child is learning words associated with living things, such as <i>caterpillar, froglet, gills, animal, food, fox, grass, tree, twigs, woods, hatch, plant, root, seed, stem, trunk, tree, bird, duck, and swan</i>. Write down these words, and discuss the meaning of each. Then go on a nature walk, or explore books about nature if you live in a city. Together with your child, find examples of as many of these words as you can, saying the word as you find them</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comprehension Connection</b> “Circle of Life”</p> <p>Some of the selections we’ll be reading in class feature a sequence text structure to describe the life cycle of living things. Recognizing and understanding sequence in a text is an important reading skill. Support this skill as you explore life cycles with your child. Brainstorm a favorite animal, such as a pet, a farm animal, or a rain forest species. Help your child research the life cycle of that animal at the library or online. Together, take notes about each step of the animal’s life cycle. Finally, help your child construct a life cycle, using words and pictures showing the sequence of steps in the life cycle.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Phonics Connection</b> “Grrreat Fun!”</p> <p>In our phonics instruction, your child is reading words that begin with r-blends, such as the “fr” in the word frog. Notice how you can hear the individual f and r sounds in the word frog. That’s called a blend. Play this game to practice r-blends. On seven index cards, write the blends br-, cr-, dr-, fr-, gr-, pr-, tr-. Shuffle the cards, turn over the top card, and say a word that starts with that blend. For example, if the letters are gr, you might say grow. Then your child says another word, such as great. Move on to the next card when you can’t think of any more words that begin with that blend.</p>

\*Activities taken from Benchmark Advance Learning Company

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