



## Mrs. Frecon's Fab Facts

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hey Fans! Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter! We are "going green," so please be on the look-out for "Mrs. Frecon's Fab Facts" at the beginning of each month in your email inbox, and my school website.

We have had a fabulous start to first grade! I have truly enjoyed getting to know each individual child, and we have done some fun activities getting to know each other as a team while forming many new friendships. The beginning of the year was spent establishing routines together, getting to know individual differences, learning styles, and needs, conferring with readers and writers one-on-one, and we are already meeting target goals while integrating technology and having fun!

The following provides some background on what we have been working on, and skills and concepts that will be covered in the upcoming month of October:

### Reading:

- Reading Workshop: Students engage in a Balanced Literacy Reading Workshop. Each day, I work with students in whole group, small groups, or 1-on-1 conferring in the areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Lessons this month are targeting:
  - o Monitoring and fixing up reading understanding and accuracy
  - o Determine between realism and fantasy text
  - o Engage prior knowledge before reading, and use it to make connections during reading
  - o Summarizing text and determining important ideas
- *Small Group Guided Reading* (according to individual's instructional level) and *Strategy Groups* (according to strategies in need of practice) are beginning this month (I've spent the first month conferring and setting independent reading goals).
- CAFÉ cards (to be) introduced: Comprehension: Check for Understanding, Monitor and Clarify, Use Prior Knowledge, Questioning before, during, after reading, Making Predictions, confirm or contradict; Accuracy: Read letters and words carefully; Eluency: Reread, I-PICK good-fit books; Expand Vocab: Tune in to interesting words.
- **Phonics:** \* Each week, I will test individuals on the phonics skill from the previous week. Students may come home with a manilla envelope I call the "Phonics Pack." There will be flash cards inside targeting the previous skill. If this comes home, please practice the flash cards each night with your child as a review. I will re-test and determine if we can discard the flashcards after this additional practice.
  - o **Last week:** short a
  - o **Current week:** short I (itch); -in; -ick; -ip; -ig; -it; Final x /ks/
  - o **Coming up:** Short o (octopus); Plurals (-s); Inflected Endings (-ed), (-ing); Short e (egg); Initial Blends (stop, flap, track, spin, swell)

### Writing:

- Building a community of writers
- Composing personal narratives through the Writing Process; "Small Moments" and learning through mentor text read alouds.
- This month I will take the class to the Makerspace Room for our first Make Writing Passion Projects! More to come!!!

### Math:

- Skills:
  - o Counting On and Tracking Counting On to find the unknown part in a math story problem.
  - o Finding number pairs to 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
  - o Learning the significance of the equal sign and understanding mathematical equations and expressions.
- On the worksheets coming home, you are seeing new vocabulary such as number bonds. The students are introduced to the terms and they are used on a daily basis within instruction. Ask your child to explain their thinking and reasoning to you using these terms once in a while as the papers come home.
  - o *\*Note: many times we will not complete a whole worksheet, some pages are left unfinished.* That is because when the students meet me in small groups, we choose selected questions on which to focus, there is not enough time to complete all of them. However, if you feel your child would benefit from extra practice at home, they can certainly work on the other problems to extend the day's learning.
- Students have engaged in the **P.O.W. (problem of the week)**. Here they collaborate with each other in small groups to *persevere* in solving a *challenging* word problem. Over the next several months as new POW's are presented, I will introduce many problem-solving strategies to the class and model how to select a good strategy for solving a problem, showing all work *precisely*, and *explain thinking* aloud using words and numbers (mathematical practices).
- Implementation of "xtra math," a web tool we are using to increase our math fact fluency, along with a Math Facts game station and conferring with the teacher to build counting on fluency.
- Implementation of [www.zearn.org](http://www.zearn.org) to further solidify concepts introduced and learned during the present math lessons in our math workshop (on iPads and available to access from home as well; **username and password in Hawk Folder**).
  - o **\*\*\***Some students are still practicing logging in; while we've worked on this for some time, they are now expected to get onto **Zearn** independently so that I can teach my small groups. Some are a bit behind due to this. Presently we are on Module 1 Lesson 7. You can help your child login from home, and do continued practice if time allows. It'll also give you the opportunity to see our learning from your child's perspective.

### Science:

- Observing weather: temperature, precipitation, cloud cover, wind
- S.T.E.M. projects: ask your child to share all about our STEM, "Piggy's House of Cards." It includes teamwork, collaboration, communication, scientific method, engineering, and more!!!
  - o I'll send more pictures with our next project! (Still waiting on publicity confirmation)

### Social Studies:

- Gain background knowledge of where we live in USA, make connections to Canada
  - o Language, culture, holidays, money, traditions, weather, government

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- 10-9 Fire Prevention Day
- 10-11: Scholastic Book Orders Due
- 10-14: No School for Students
- 10-23: Early Dismissal
- 10-25: Parent Visitation Day
- 11-1: Fall Harvest Party

**\*\*\*Reminders:**

- Please *Sign & Return* all tests and quizzes that come home in the Tuesday Test Folder.

Happy Autumn,  
*Mrs. Frecon*