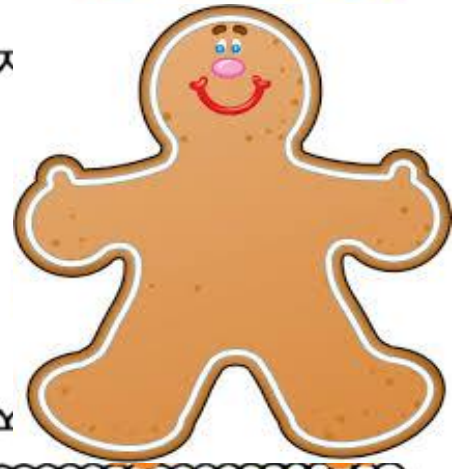


Menisk Minutes: December Edition



Mrs. Mensik: lmensik@fsd157c.org / 815.469.3366



Green Fluency Bags

We're in full swing with Guided Reading, so new books will be sent home weekly. **Please have your child every day to build fluency & sight word recognition & send the bags with the books inside back to school daily.** 😊

I CAN ... start at the top & read across to the bottom on each page of a book.

I CAN ... put words together to make a sentence.

I CAN... read with fluency, & have expression in my voice

I CAN ... tell you what the final sound of a word is

Shared Reading

This Month: we'll be retelling stories that we read & hear. The beginning, middle, & ending house important parts to the story & the closer we listen, the more often we can put a "cork" in our brains to not forget!

(ask your child to "CORK YOUR BRAIN!" at home to avoid letting any info fall out after reading!) 😊

We're talking about where the most action & "stuff" happens in a book: the middle!

I CAN... participate in group reading activities

I CAN... make sure the pictures math the words when reading

I CAN ... I retell a story I've heard including key details



**Happy Birthday!!
Cooper 12/31**

Q2 Sight Words & Word Study 😊

(see attachment on website for games to play!)**

he she said go do we
as is his has was this my

We work on letter recognition & letter sounds daily throughout the day in various ways. 😊

It's really important for the kids to be able to identify ALL uppercase & lowercase letters, as well as 26 sounds in isolation.

Quarter 2: We'll be working on identifying the final letter sound at the **end** of the word. We will also work on C-V-C words (*consonant-vowel-consonant* words): cap, hen, sit, fog, tub

The goal for the end of 2nd quarter: kids need to identify **the final letter (ending sound)** of a given word AND keep applying the beginning sounds of words too!

I CAN... quickly read Q2 high frequency (sight) words

I CAN... name uppercase & lowercase letters

I CAN... write a letter for a consonant sound and short vowel sound I hear in a word

I CAN... spell simple words & read C-V-C words

Christmas Around the World!

The children will be making suitcases and passports to start out unit on Christmas around the world. We are so excited to visit many different countries to learn about their culture and holiday traditions.

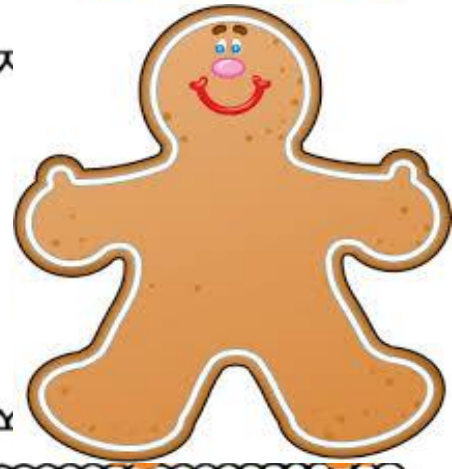
Their suitcases will come home right before winter break, so they can share with you all the different places they went to. They'll have lots of souvenirs and stories to share with you!



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Writer's Workshop!

Show & Tell / Pattern Books: We have completed our Show & Tell / Pattern Book unit & the kids have done **very well** with these stories! **YESSSS!!!**

We learned what all pattern books have in common:

- they follow a certain **structure**
- **Pattern words** are important! These are the words that keep on getting repeated over & over again.
- The pictures should always match the words.
- If there is a **surprise ending**, that page must "break away" from the pattern words & have its own special words! **BUT ... it still must make sense in the story!**

As writers, we learned how to:

- Write our own pattern books!
- Add a surprise ending that still makes sense
- Write our sight words correctly & use them to create our pattern words
- Keep s-t-r-e-t-c-h-i-n-g out the sounds we hear in words in order to write them

Next up ... the kids get to teach ... How-To Books!

I CAN ... use more than one sentence to share an idea when I talk and write.

I CAN ... write sentences using Kindergarten spelling which begin with uppercase letters, have spaces, and end with a period..

Math



This month: We're **measuring & comparing** objects by both length and weight & learned special math vocab: **'longer than'**, **'shorter than'**, **'heavier than'**, & **'lighter than'**

(the kids learned that they already know what comparing means ... just by doing the activity! 😊)

- **Length:** when we measure 2 objects, we need to **make sure they both have the same 'end point!'** This means that we line them up side by side & **measure them starting at the same spot** on one end
- **Weight:** when comparing weights, mathematicians take their time to make sure that they place each object carefully into the scale baskets!

We'll continue to review these skills, so please keep practicing at home:

- Counting up from any given number
- Writing #'s to 20 (then 50).
- Counting to 100 by 1's & 10's for a challenge

I CAN ... tell if an object is longer than or shorter than other objects

I CAN ... use the math vocabulary we learned:

I CAN ... use a balance scale to compare objects' weights

I CAN ... I can count to 100 by 1's

Reminders

• **Friday, 12/21:**

- Classroom Winter party!! (12:50 – 1:30 pm & set-up at 12:45 pm)
- **EARLY DISMISSAL FOR STUDENTS AT 1:55 PM!**

- Please ensure your child is dressed properly for the cold weather & can zip their coats, as we'll be outside for recess most days! Hat, gloves/mittens & boots, when appropriate!

