



Dear Parents,

A belated thank you for your support with the Fairy Tale Unit and the Ball. It was a magical evening! I loved watching the children having fun together. Thank you also for attending the conference with your child. I value our time together celebrating learning and setting goals for the remainder of the year.

Last week we were busy learning about polygons, Earth Day, and continents. We had our daffodil cutting ceremony on Thursday morning. Each student cut three daffodils, that were planted in the fall, and gave them to a representative from York Hospital. They also made precious cards for the patients.

We have a busy month of May planned.

Important Dates:

May 1st - Visit from the Center of Wildlife
 May 16th - Walking Field trip to Old York - more info soon.
 May 24th - Spring First Grade Concert 6:00
 May 29th - No school due to Memorial Day

Academic Updates:

Reading: Last week we started our Final Reading Unit: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons. This month we will work on the first two bends of the unit. The mini lessons will include:

- * Previewing Stories to Get Ready for Reading Adventures
- * Using The Storyline to Predict
- * Retelling to Retain the Story
- * Revisit to Notice More
- * Reread to Notice Pages that Go Together
- * Learning About the Main Character
- * Learning about By Noticing Their Relationships
- * Rereading to Learn More about Characters
- * Using Clues to Help Readers Know How to Read a Story.
- * Rereading to Smooth our Voices and Show Big Feelings

Writing: We started our final unit - From Scenes to Series. The students started writing their first realistic fiction story this week. They had wonderful ideas and I am looking forward to helping them grow as writers.

Math: We will be finishing our Geometry unit during the middle of the month. Please look for your Unit 9 EDM family letter the week of May 22nd.

Social Studies: We will be working on a “Long Ago” Social Studies Unit this month. The goal of this unit is to expose children to the past and how things have changed. We will be reading wonderful books to make connections to this unit. One of my favorites is a book called, Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge, written by Mem Fox. This book is about a boy who lives next to an “Old People’s Home.” A lady in the home has lost her memory and the boy tries to help her by asking others what a memory is.

Science: We will be studying plants and animals this month. This unit will help students understand how plants and animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs as well as how behaviors of parents and offspring help the offspring survive. The understanding is developed that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly the same as, their parents.

Other: I wanted to share with you that I will be retiring at the end of this school year. It has been an honor and pleasure to work as a teacher in both elementary schools in our district. The relationships I have made and the children I have taught will forever be in my heart.

I look forward to the remainder of the year.

Fondly,

Julie



A few reasons that influenced my decision to retire.



