



Fundations: As we did not get to it before break, we will review words with blends and have our test later this week. Continue to practice reading and spelling words with blends and digraph blends. It's important for students to separate and identify each sound in the blend. Blends can be at the beginning, the end of a word or both! Make it a good habit to reread (tap the sounds) in the word after you have written it. Does it have each sound? Last chance to complete and return activities in your home support packet.

Reading: This week we will spend some time reviewing and practicing our routines and expectations for our reading time. This includes choosing our own books for independent reading time. We should be able to use the tools and strategies that we have learned to solve and read most of the words in our book. If we are struggling with most of the words, that book is too difficult. We will also review and practice independent work choices (Daily 5). We want to make sure that we are being determined and using our time productively to grow our brains! Later this week we will get refocused on our nonfiction books. Students will practice asking and answering questions that relate to the main topics of nonfiction books. When reading at home stop after a few pages and have your child practice asking questions that make sense and go along with the topic.

Writing: This week we begin to learn about writing an opinion. Opinions are our own personal beliefs and we can all thing something different. We will work to understand the the difference between a fact and an opinion. We will also learn how to give reasons for our opinions. The word "because" will be very important in this kind of writing!

Math: We will review our addition and subtractions skills including solving equations and understanding how the two operations are related. Remember how we knew that $5+7=12$ so $12-7=5$. What other related facts can you think of? Our understanding of related facts will help us solve for an unknown number in a number sentence (hello Algebra!).

We will also begin to explore the importance of the equals sign. This symbol shouldn't be thought of as the end of a problem, but instead as a balance. The numbers on each side of the symbol must be balanced. The following are balanced equations and correctly use the equals sign:

$$5=5 \quad 2+3=5 \quad 5=4+1 \quad 4+1=2+3$$

Social Studies: This week we will explore the tradition of setting New Year's resolutions! What resolutions can we set to be better friends, classmates, students and members of the community? We will review the characteristics of P.R.I.D.E., particularly showing grit and determination. We have to be brave when taking on challenges! What goals can we set for the new year? At home? At school? In our community? How can we make a plan to reach our goals? Our school will be focusing on the letter R for respectful. We will review respectful behavior in our school community and in how we treat others!

Reminders: (please see the back)

If you need to reach me by email, please contact me at ehavel@scsmustangs.org or send me a Remind message.

Our class website is whitney1h.weebly.com

Reminders:

- We have art class week.
- Friday's spirit day is Argyle Day! Wear tops or socks with an argyle pattern if you have any!
- Please return December **reading logs** if you still have them at home. You can also, return the **Holiday Break Reading Challenge** if it is completed.

Repeat items:

- Green folders should come every afternoon and be returned to school each morning (even if they are empty).
- Reading logs (calendar format) will be checked each Monday. Students with marked logs receive a sticker and green dojo for the week. If you forget, please send the next day.
- Library books are due back each Thursday. Please remember your book so that you can get a new one!
- Please see Mrs. Hawk's newsletter for a link to join PTA. You do not have to attend meetings to be a member. They would love to have your support!
- Water bottles are allowed during the day but should be completely closeable (screw on lid). *Please do not send juice or soda, unless it's to be taken to lunch.*
- Your student may bring a **snack** to eat in the morning during breakfast. Please pack his/her snack separate from his/her lunch to save time digging through lunches! He/she should be able to manage the snack on his/her own. Thank you!
- Your child should be practicing his/her **student ID** number.
- Take some time to practice **shoe tying** with your first grader if needed.