



**Fundations:** This week, we will begin to learn about blends (two consonants next to each other). It's important that we remember that each consonant in a blend keeps its own sound. Step has a beginning blend (st), while camp has an ending blend (mp). Please look over the Unit 8 Home Support Pack when it comes home. Our trick words this week are: **are, were, who, what, and when.**

**Reading:** It is going to be an exciting week for our readers. We will review all of the good habits we have developed to read more and to figure out tricky words as we start our unit on Nonfiction Books. The student's will be reading books that teach us about our world. We can learn about anything from nonfiction books! Our first step is to learn how to do a sneak peak of the book to see what we can learn. There is so much information just in the photographs or pictures! We will stop and study each page carefully for details and learn how to talk about the topics in our books using information from both the pictures and the text.

**Writing:** This week we will work to improve our narratives stories by adding more details. We can tell more in our small moment stories by really stretching out the moment and telling what happened step by step. We can replay the moment in our mind or even act it out to help us remember all of the details. We can also remember how we were feeling or what we were thinking when our small moment happened. Do we know what the other characters were feeling? We can add these details too! We will work to use specific action words (verbs) to help our readers picture what is happening (my fingers wiggled, my toes curled).

**Math:** In addition, we counted on, so for subtraction, we will learn to count back. We can also use a number line to help us count back or count on to subtract. For  $9-3$ , I can start at 9 and count back to 3 or start at 3 and count up to 9.

We can also use our addition strategy of making a 10 as a tool for subtraction. To solve  $14-5$ , I can first take away 4 to make 10, then I only need to take away one more!  $14-5=9$ ! As with the number line, we also have the option to count up. I can start with the 5 in the ten frame. How many counters do I need to add to get up to 14? (5 more to fill the frame and 4 more to get to 14.  $5+4=9$ ) Both strategies result in a difference of 9!

Finally, we can begin to explore Fact Families. These are facts that use the same numbers to add and subtract!

**Social Studies:** We learn about people and places of the past through history. We will examine how various aspects of life have changed from the past to the present. How has school changed? Communities? The way people work and play? What might the future hold? We can learn about history from a variety of places including our older family members! Family traditions and holiday celebrations also teach us about history. What holidays are coming up that can help us learn about history? What special traditions does your family have?

Reminders: (please see the back)

If you need to reach me by email, please contact me at [ehavel@scsmustangs.org](mailto:ehavel@scsmustangs.org) or send me a Remind message.

Our class website is [whitney1h.weebly.com](http://whitney1h.weebly.com)

#### Reminders:

- We have art this week.
- Students will have a substitute teacher for Thursday and Friday. I will be attending professional development at the board office. Please help me to remind the students about respectful manners for guest teachers:)
- Friday's spirit day is festive hair or holiday hats!
- Our class will visit the Winter Wonderland Holiday Shop on Thursday, December 8th.
- We are looking for large, brown paper grocery bags to use for an upcoming project (with handles would be amazing!). If you have or get any in the next couple of weeks, we would greatly appreciate you sending them in! Thank you!

#### 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.