

## Chaffee Trail January Newsletter

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. ~ Martin Luther King Jr



... where they will not be judged  
by the color of their skin  
but by the content of their character.  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- January 16th- Holiday Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No school for teachers and students
- January 18th - Early Act Club
- January 20th -Teacher Planning Day- No school for students
- January 23rd-27th - Celebrate Literacy Week
- January 25th - Early Dismissal
- January 27th - Flag Raising 8:30am
- January 30th - Report Cards go home

### FCAT EXPLORER AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES



Recently, CTE teachers sent home the list of student logins, passwords and websites. We hope that this was beneficial and will assist you in helping your children log on to sites such as FCAT explorer, Destination success, and Study Island. These sites are specific to your students needs and current benchmarks covered in class. If you have any questions please contact your child's teachers for additional details.

### Helpful Reminders

- Breakfast: Breakfast is served between 8:00am and 8:20am. In order to receive breakfast and make it to class on time, students who have breakfast should be in the cafeteria no later than **8:15am** .
- Afternoon Checkouts: If you need to check your student out in the afternoon it must be before **2:30**. After **2:30** we will not be able to check students out.
- OnCourse: Parent Portal Passwords are still available. See Mrs. Doyle for additional information.

**Kindergarten:**

Happy New Year!! We hope you had a wonderful Holiday break. We have started the next genre in writing which is Functional writing. Functional writing is "How To" writing. Students will produce writing that tells others "How To" do something. They will use time words (First, Second, Third, Fourth, Then, Next, Last, Finally, etc) in their writing when stating each step. Some examples are: how to brush your teeth, wash a car, walk a dog, make a cake, etc. During Writer's Workshop, students will learn how to interact with texts, other students, and their personal experiences in order to develop as oral and written storytellers. Writer's workshop helps students develop communication skills, builds confidence, and promotes a sense of community among others.

We hope you are reading at least one book each night with your child and logging it in their reading log. The following are strategies we are teaching to help your child become a better reader. Please practice these at home as well.

**READING STRATEGIES**

~Point to each word as you say it.

~Know your sight words.

~Use Turtle Talk to sound out words.

~Use picture clues.

~Use Read-Stop-Think (read 2 pages, STOP, and think about/discuss what you have read or what someone else has just read to you)

In math we are developing strategies for counting sets of objects by using manipulatives, drawings, tools and notation to show strategies and solutions.

**First Grade:** Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We have a lot of work to do over the next few months to prepare your child for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Please be sure your child is at school every day and on time. We have jumped right into writing with our Functional Writing Genre. Your child may start to notice writing you use every day around your house. For example: recipes, directions, instructions, maps, letters, thank you's etc. They will be working on writing their own "How To..." as we dig deeper into this genre. In Reader's

Workshop we are working on building reading comprehension by asking questions, inferring, predicting, and comparing/contrasting. Please continue to read with and to your child every day, and don't forget to log those books!

We are doing a lot of investigating in math. We are moving along with our addition facts and story problems. We are also beginning to introduce subtraction story problems and strategies.

Encourage your child to use math at home. Line up toys, candy, etc, ask your child how many do I have? Add more or take some away and have them find the answer. You will be amazed at how fast they start to catch on! We are exploring the differences between living and non-living things in Science. This has allowed us to revisit our trip to the Jacksonville Zoo and talk more about our findings from that fun day! Thank you for everything you do at home to make our job here at school that much easier. We truly appreciate your support.

**Second Grade:**

Happy New Year!! Can you believe it is already 2012? This school year is almost half way over!!! We have a lot to accomplish before June, so let's get to work! We will continue to work on reading comprehension, with an emphasis on understanding non-fiction text. We strongly encourage you to begin exploring more non-fiction books in your "at home" reading.

Many non-fiction books are written at a higher level than your child may read. When this happens, take the opportunity to explore the book with your child. This provides you and your child a special time to learn new information together. We are using non-fiction texts to teach the concept of main idea. You can reinforce this at home by talking about the main idea of the books you are reading at home.

In writing, we are finishing up narrative writing and are beginning persuasive writing. This genre of writing is usually fairly easy for children since they have much practice in "persuasion"!! It involves stating your opinion and then giving reasons to support that

opinion.

Measurement is on our agenda in math. This is a favorite of children because it requires a lot of "hands on" practice. We have already measured using strips of paper and are moving on to using rulers. If you have a ruler or measuring tape at home, let your child use one to measure objects around your house. The more practice they get, the more comfortable they will be with measuring. Have them record their findings and then make comparisons using the data collected. For instance, you could ask your child, "How many more inches is the width of the television than the width of the book?". This not only will help their measuring skills, but will also give them practice in computation and problem solving skills.

We thank you so much for your support at home! Please continue to encourage and assist in reading at home. This is vital to your child's success! Remember to call us or write a note in the agenda if you have any questions or concerns!

**Third:**

This January third grade is ready for winter, and the cold weather. Currently, the students are working with non-fiction. Learning the importance of the main idea and details ( Study Island is a great resource for this reading strategy). Please continue to practice these reading strategies at home when reading with your children. In social studies and science the students will be using text features to identify key answers to questions. Social studies will be studying the history of the Native American Indians, and in science we are going to be soaring into space. Math is finished with multiplication and division and we have jumped into geometry and measurement. Please take advantage of online websites such as: Destination Success, Study Island, and Math Magician. Continue to read books of different genres to keep your child's mind active. We look forward to a prosperous 2012 in 3rd grade.

**Fourth Grade:** Continue to encourage your children to use Study Island and Destination Success at home. These computer programs provide repeated practice of fourth grade skills and are great tools to help the children prepare to take the FCAT.

Here is a brief overview of what the next few weeks have in store for each of the subject areas.

**Reading-** In our next unit the students will be reading fantasy fiction. They will be asked to use their knowledge of reading strategies such as making predictions and inferring to tell what might happen and why they think certain events occurred. We will be taking our second round of FAIR testing. This is a district test that assess the children on their phonemic awareness, comprehension, and vocabulary knowledge. They children have already taken their mid year DRA and will soon know how much they have progressed when they are given a new reading level.

**Writing-** We have been and will continue to work on the genre or expository writing. This genre asked the children to explain their opinion on a prompt and be able to support their opinions with examples (anecdotes) and writing crafts.

**Language and Skills-** In language the children will be learning and reviewing the differences between possessives and plural nouns and how to change nouns into the appropriate format. We will do a brief review of compound words. We will also be discussing word choice and understanding how to change common verbs into more vivid verbs to enhance the quality of our writing.

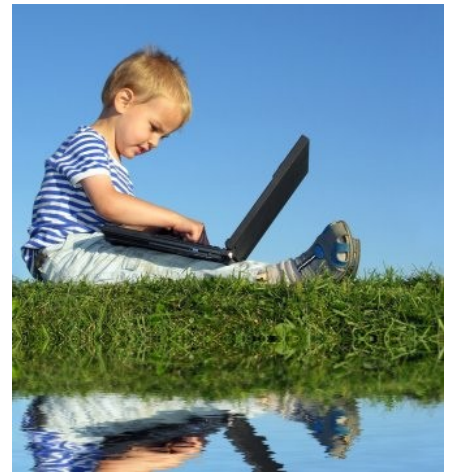
**Social Studies/ Science-** Our next units in science will focus on the different forms energy comes in: heat, sound, and motion. In social studies the children will be learning about current events.

**Math-** We are moving into and understanding of Geometry. This unit will focus on terms including names of 2D and 3D shapes, understanding lines, angles, and rays. We will also be learning about area or irregular and regular shapes and

And finding perimeter. Thank you for partnering with us in assisting your child to achieve academic success in 4th grade.

**Fifth Grade:**

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the third nine weeks. The next few months will be very busy for us as we continue to prepare our students to be successful in middle school. In Math Workshop, students will explore two and three-dimensional geometric shapes with a strong focus on area and surface area. In science, students will use their prior knowledge of the solar system to answer the essential question "What makes up a galaxy?" In Writer's Workshop, students will be developing a functional writing piece, otherwise known as a "How-To". Students will learn how to provide a list of materials needed, present steps in a logical order, add appropriate details, address common problems, and include helpful visuals. In Reader's Workshop students will be researching Abraham Lincoln in preparation for our upcoming field trip. They will also study author's purpose and continue with the Read It Forward strategy of questioning before, during, and after reading. On Jan. 17, students will go to the Main Library for an Abraham Lincoln historical presentation. To provide background for the trip we have centered social studies lessons on the life of Lincoln. Students also have the opportunity to win a prize by participating in an Abraham Lincoln essay contest sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida. The winner will be announced on the day of our field trip to the Main Library



<http://www.fcatexplorer.com/>

<https://success.duvalschools.org/lms>

<http://www.studyisland.com/>

