



Welcome Back!

I hope all of you had a fantastic Thanksgiving holiday. I know many students shared their favorite foods and memories from their week. This week was an action packed week as students attended a "Stem the Musical" assembly, began our Social Studies unit, and began drafting our literary analysis essay. Be sure to review the Newsworthy Announcements section for information regarding the Spelling Bee, Science Expo, and the Global Family Festival.



To stay up to date be sure to read each issue of the "Rockin' Croc Times."

## IMPORTANT DATES

December 7, 2019-Hurricane Make-Up day

December 12, 2019 - Written Spelling Bee

December 13, 2019 - Oral Spelling Bee

December 20, 2019 - Track Out

January 18, 2020 - Science Expo

Character Trait Nominee:

Hope/Optimism: Sophia

Pick of the Week: Jude

## CHOMP Update

This week our students have done a fantastic job in the cafeteria. We earned all of our CHOMPliments in the cafeteria at the time of drafting this newsletter. I will say our students have been somewhat chatty during class lessons this week. I attribute this to missing friends and the approaching holiday season. If you could encourage them to stay focused and on task our last two weeks it would be greatly appreciated as we finish the quarter strong.

CHOMPliments: We currently have 139 CHOMPliments

## Backpack Buddies

We need your help collecting donations for our BackPack Buddy Program. This program provides food for students in our community for weekends and extended holidays/track out. You can sign up to donate or volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4ca5ac2daafc1-november>

Thank you for your support. Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions!

## News-worthy Announcements

### Global Family Festival

Click [HERE](#) to Watch the Global Family Festival Introduction in English and Espanol.

We are already getting excited about our second annual Global Family Festival! This special Sycamore Creek event will be on February 13, 2020 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Mark your calendars now! Our school community will be celebrating the diversity of our students and families. We would love for your family to share more about your heritage, culture, and traditions. Each family presenting will have table space to present cultural artifacts, demonstrate arts and crafts, offer language lessons, etc. If you would like to participate, please sign up below and we will contact you with more information. Please sign up before December 20, 2019. As a reminder, the following are prohibited; incense, candles, hot plates, homemade food or beverages. Any food being served must be store bought, wrapped, with an ingredient list.



Parents at Sycamore Creek are trying to get flashing school signs/lights in front of Sycamore Creek. They need 700 more signatures. Please consider showing your support.

[Petition Get Better Signals for our School Zone](#)

**Please join us for our Innovation Expo!**  
**January 18, 2020**  
**10:00 - 12:00**  
**Register your project at**  
**[scienceatsycamore.weebly.com](http://scienceatsycamore.weebly.com)**  
**Deadline to register is January 10, 2020**



Our annual school spelling bee will be held on January 17, 2020 at 8:30 am in the multipurpose room. This school wide event is open to 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. Students who win their classroom spelling bee will move onto this event. Parents are invited to attend this monumental event as well. Please report to the multipurpose room before 8:30 to be a SILENT supporter. Participants will stay on stage as long as they are spelling words correctly. If a participant misses a word, they will stay in their seat through that round. Since this event takes place over our track out. A parent will need to transport their child to the bee.

A Scripp's Spelling Bee school list has been provided to your child. This covers the first grade -6<sup>th</sup> grade words. Please note that the spelling is NOT limited to these words. Super spellers are encouraged to review spelling patterns as well as Greek and Latin roots. All words used in the spelling bee will be found in Webster's International Dictionary.

There will be two optional practice sessions: 1/9/20 and 1/14/20 at 7:30-8:00

**Our Classroom bee will be held on Friday December, 13, 2019**

### **Holiday Service Project**

Please be on the lookout for an email from our room parents regarding our Holiday Service project.

# Curriculum Update

**Math:** In Math this week students continued our study of place value and decimals. Students reviewed comparing decimals and solved several real world problems in which they had to compare decimal numbers. On Wednesday, we began studying patterns when multiplying decimals by 10, 100, and 1000. Students utilized place value charts to visualize how the digits shift when a factor is multiplied by 10, 100, or 100. Students discussed and recorded patterns that they noticed. On Thursday, we completed another lesson that detailed what occurs when decimals are divided by 10, 100, or 1000. Students took an assessment on Friday that allowed them to display their understanding of reading, writing, and comparing decimals to the thousandths place.

**Reading:** In Reading this week we began writing our literary analysis essay of the text, "The Most Beautiful Roof in the World". Our literary essay will answer the essential question: what do the author's use of concrete language and sensory details help you understand about the rainforest? Students first reviewed our model essay to examine the structure of a literary analysis essay. Next, we crafted a focus statement in small groups and as a class that answered our essential question. Students then completed a graphic organizer that helped them structure their introduction. When then moved on to drafting our proof paragraphs. Each proof paragraph focused on explaining how specific concrete language and sensory details gave us a greater understanding of the rainforest. Next week we will continue with our drafting by completing a conclusion and peer revising and editing our work.

**Social Studies/Science:** In Social Studies this week our students began their new unit of study, Geography and Environmental Literacy. Students gathered notes about the five major regions of the United States via a PowerPoint presentation to provide a general overview of the regions. On Wednesday, students worked within a small group of 5 students to become an expert on one region. Students researched the landforms, water, climate, and resources of their given region. They also answered our essential question: how does the physical environment impact the settlement of individuals and determine how people meet their basic needs? On Monday, students will present their gathered information to their peers and collect notes from their peers.

## OBJECTIVES



### I Can Statements:

I Can... In order to bring purpose to what your child is learning, we post I CAN statements on our board daily. It is important that your child is continually utilizing these to evaluate their understanding. You can check in with your student by discussing the following statements.

#### Math:

I can read write and compare decimals to the thousandths place.

I can explain what occurs when multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, 100 and .1, .01, and .001.

#### Reading:

I can write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

I can introduce a topic clearly, provide a general observation and focus, and group related information logically; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

I can draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.