

Mr. T's Rockin' Crocs



"We Americans have the great gifts of freedom and democracy, but it has been our education system that has fulfilled the promise of democracy."

James E. Rogers

In Friday Folders this week:
Fluency Sheet
Homework
Reading Work
Science Assessment



Announcements

Case Benchmark Assessments

Case assessments will be taking place next week. Monday will be our reading assessment, Tuesday will be math, and science will take place on Wednesday. Please make sure that your student is well rested and at school on time.

Service project

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, on December 18th we will be completing our second quarter service project. The charity we will be supporting is called 'Note in the Pocket' and was started by a Wake County teacher. Prior to the 18th we will be collecting gently used winter clothing for individuals in our area that are in need. Mrs. Bartsch sent an email earlier this week of items that are needed for the "Note in the Pocket" program. If you have any questions please send myself or Mrs. Bartsch an email.

Class Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Camille for winning our class spelling bee! We will all be cheering you on at the school spelling bee!

Mark your Calendars!

Tacky Holiday Sweater Day

On Friday, December 18th, we will have our next theme day at school. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a "tacky" holiday sweater to celebrate the holiday season.

Important Dates

12/11 – Science Expo Assembly

12/14 – Reading Case Assessment

12/15 – Math Case Assessment

12/16 – Science Case Assessment

12/18 – End of Quarter 2 / Report Cards / Early Release / Tacky Holiday Sweater Day!

12/18 – 2nd Quarter Service Project

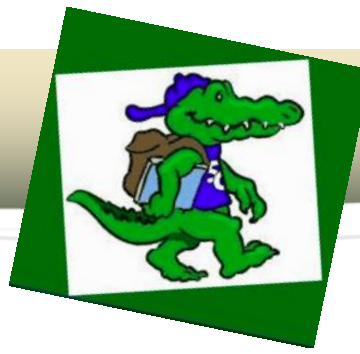
1/25 – 1st day of Quarter 3

1/29 – School Spelling Bee

PBIS *Kindness*

Have you ever wondered what makes Sycamore Creek such a great school? If you think about it, it all starts with the many ways that our crocs show each other our character trait of the month: Kindness. Our crocs show kindness to each other all the time by helping friends in need, being mindful of how their actions impact others, and by cooperating and working well together. Try to think of some of the different ways you show kindness.

Curriculum Update



Math: This week we have continued our study of decimals with an emphasis on division in a variety of situations and methods. Students began the week by continuing to divide whole numbers by decimals. Students did this by using number lines and hundredths grids. The idea of dividing a whole number by a decimal and having a quotient that is larger was a difficult concept to grasp. But, after many illustrations and trial problems students began to make progress. On Tuesday, we began dividing decimals by decimals. Students utilized the grids and number lines once again to complete these equations. On Wednesday, students were shown the standard division algorithm that is the most common method of dividing. For the remainder of the week students continued working on division and began discussing the order of operations on Friday. Students will be responsible for understanding which operation is to be completed first when solving a more complex equation. Please visit the following [link](#) to view more information about our study of the order of operations.

1. [Base Ten Blocks Decimal Division](#)
2. [Dividing by Decimals with grids](#)

Reading: In Reading this week, we have focused our mini lesson instruction on main idea, supporting details, and developing summaries. Determining a main idea from a non-fiction text can at times be difficult. I appreciate how our students are searching for the supporting details and then determining the “very important idea” the author is attempting to convey. Throughout the week, I have expressed to students that by annotating a text, using our [track marks](#), identifying key details, and summarizing a text in our own words we are developing a deeper understanding of the material we are reading. To gain further practice with these skills students were also assigned several nonfiction passages that discuss summaries and main ideas on [frontrowed.com](#). Also this week, instead of pulling small groups, students are currently being given the mid-year MClass assessments. Our Rockin’ Crocs are being assessed on their oral reading fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. Be on the look-out for your individual student report and recommended strategies coming home soon.

Writing: This week in writing, students continued drafting their independent opinion writing pieces. Students received mini lessons and guided support to create their introduction and conclusion paragraphs. Students learned the importance of “hooking” their audience and effective techniques to close their writing piece. On Thursday and Friday students completed and turned in the final drafts of their writing. The rubric for the opinion writing piece can be accessed on our website by clicking [here](#).

Science and Social Studies:

In science this week, we completed our final assessment relating to weather. We then began our social studies unit relating to the American Revolution. Students have been reading and learning about the American Revolution throughout the second quarter thanks to our integrated non-fiction reading unit. This has provided our students with a background knowledge relating to American colonists and their struggle for independence. Beginning on Tuesday, students began completing several around the room scavenger hunts and content sorts to further enhance their understanding of the varying colonial regions.

Chomp Update: I am very proud of the Rockin’ Crocs this week. Not only have we received all of our Chompliments in specials and in the cafeteria, but we have also received multiple Chompliments in the hall for being silent. I love to see how our students respond from the positive feedback that we receive from our fellow teachers.



CHOMPliment Total



134

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 our student by discussing the following statements.

Math:

Divide decimal numbers to the hundredths place using concrete models (grids and number lines) and relate the strategy to a written method and explain the reasoning used.

Reading:

Quote accurately when explaining a non-fiction text.

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

Writing:

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. Introduce a topic or text clearly And provide a concluding statement.

Social Studies:

Understand how increased diversity resulted from migration, settlement patterns and economic development in the United States.

 Croc with Character! 

Kindness



Sophie



Mr. T's Pick of the Week

October 30 - Daniel

November 6 - Jade

November 20 - Xander

December 4 - Camille

December 11 - Jordan