

# Miss Switzer's Star Notes



## November Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I want to thank you all for coming in to our Fall Student Led Conferences last week. I am so very proud of your children, and I can't stop smiling about them. They did an amazing job with their Google presentations and talking us through their conferences. To see the kids talk about their own goals, strengths and areas to improve AND show you their work made me so proud! It is my favorite part of the conferences. Thank you all for helping us develop goals for your children. These have all been sent home, and the kids will be typing them up to display on their desks. Please return parent homework and your child's portfolio at your earliest convenience.



November and December are usually very hectic months leading into the holidays, so please be sure to read notes that are sent home, emails, shared on Bloomz, sent home in our blue folders, in our newsletters, and our class calendars. It's very important for you to be aware of what's going on at CRES, in your child's classroom, and what your child is up to day to day. Your interest in their school world shows them that you think education and learning are important. You are their most important role models! Thanks, as always, for your time and support.

Beth :-)

### Math

Today we began our 3rd math unit. It will focus on fractions and decimals. We will learn about equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, and how to represent fractions. We will also focus on tenths leading into lessons about decimals. We will work with tenths and hundredths, millimeters, centimeters, and meters.

You should have received the third FAMILY LETTER today in your child's HOMEWORK folder. Be sure to save these as they are useful throughout the unit. They can also be found online if needed.

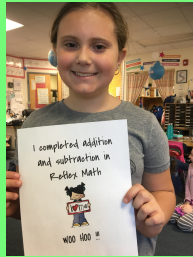
Anytime a student earns a check minus on a study link I am meeting with them to reteach as needed. You will see these papers in your child's Learning Log folder. There will be a note stapled to it, letting you know that your child needed some extra help. RTI is what we are calling this.

As we discussed at conferences, students should work on Reflex whenever they can to increase the automaticity of their math facts. It really does help with everything else we learn in math!

## Math Corner

With the Reflex program, students earn certificates as they gain facts and become more fluent. We recognize these gains regularly in the classroom. In addition, to that, as kids get to 96% or higher in addition and subtraction, I will move them up to multiplication and division.

I would like to congratulate our first student who is moving up! Emmy earned her certificate last Wednesday. Congrats, Emmy!



We have several others who are very close to completing addition and subtraction! Keep up those efforts. I can't wait to award more certificates.

## Science/Social Studies

We began science with a walking field trip through the school and playground. We were paying attention to our observations using all of our senses.

We've been doing some activities that have been helping us learn about energy and collision. The students are also making claims, citing evidence, and providing reasoning to explain their learning.



## Language Arts

We are hoping to wrap up our first writing unit before the end of the month. This means that our writers are finishing up their realistic fiction drafts and beginning to type their final copies. As this work continues, we will also talk more about dialogue and conclusions as we finish!

In reading, we are continuing to read Tiger Rising as we focus more on the characters in our books. We are learning about what authors do to make characters stand out, share their complications and how the author's craft leads us to better understanding the characters that we read about.

We are doing specific spelling lessons along with our regular discussions of our writing on our morning chart. The focus is not on memorizing spelling lists. Instead the kids are learning about spelling patterns and sounds. They all have access to [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com) This is a great resource for the kids to use to practice different 4th grade word lists.

We continue to have issues with students who are not meeting their reading goals or who aren't completing their reading responses. I cannot stress how important regular reading is for your child to grow!



### Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight



## Star Attraction Weeks

Lilly and Sammy have each had their Star Attraction Weeks since our last newsletter. My favorite part, along with learning more about the kids, is the letters that parents are sending in! These are such keepsakes. Thanks for doing that for your children! Lilly shared a lot about her sports activities, and Sammy shared his Halloween costume and had a little contest for us to figure out how much candy he got when he trick or treated! The class enjoyed all of these fun things!



We would like to thank Mr. Keller, Mrs. Raymond, and Mrs. Welock for giving their time and being our latest Mystery Stars. Mr. Keller provided a puzzle everyday leading up to his reveal. Mrs. Raymond had fun sharing about

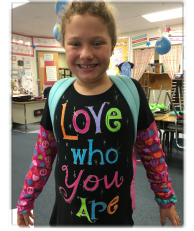
## Halloween Festivities

We celebrated Halloween with the school wide parade and then with a very low key but fun party. The kids were terrific during this time. We watched a Halloween cartoon and ate some yummy cookies and treats, too. I've posted pictures on our class webpage. Be sure to check out the ghouls and goblins from our class!

Parents, you are always welcome to attend any class party. Don't hesitate to ask or just show up! We'd love to have you join us!

## Our Assembly on Differences

I know I have written about this on Bloomz, but I have to share it again! Your children were amazing at our assembly sharing how they are each different while also sharing that we all just want to be liked and cared about. They never cease to amaze me!



## Some Things We STILL Need From Parents

\*Please read and sign plan books daily so your children see the importance of checking it each night.

\*Look in your child's homework folder periodically. They often forget to share things with you.

\*When changing dismissal plans, please be sure to include full name and addresses for bus passes..this saves lots of class time. Also be sure to name people other than parents who are picking up your child-this will make our new dismissal procedure go more smoothly.

\*SPOONS...We could use some extra spoons for kids who forget theirs for snack time.

\*Encourage your child to do his/her best every day.

## Book Fair/Book Orders

The Scholastic Book Fair began today in our CRES Library. Our class will be going during our usual library time next Monday. You are welcome to visit the book fair with your child before or after school (8-4 P.M.) or on the Family Night this Wednesday from 4-7 P.M.

I will also be sending home our November book orders next week. December's orders will go home early on in December. I wanted to let you all know that you can order for the holidays if you wish. Just let me know if you would like me to keep orders TOP SECRET, and I will hold on to books until I can get them to you!

I welcome communication of every type. Please don't hesitate to ask questions or share comments you might have. Together Everyone Achieves More!

## Resilience-the ability to recover quickly from difficulties

I have noticed that many students in our class get frustrated when things are hard for them. We talk about having a growth mindset frequently, but we had a different conversation about what being resilient means. The kids had terrific ideas and seemed to get the purpose of the discussion. I won't let your child fail at

### WHAT TO TELL MYSELF WHEN I'M FEELING DISCOURAGED

1. This is **tough**. But so am I.
2. I may not be able to control this situation. But I am **in charge** of how I respond.
3. I haven't figured this out...yet.
4. This challenge is here to teach me something.
5. All I need to do is take it one step at a time. **Breathe**. And do the next right thing.



## Conversation Starters for Home—Ask your child to tell you about....

our assembly    conference prep    portfolios    Google presentations  
Reflex            spellingcity.com    characters    realistic fiction drafts  
book buddies

Please RETURN this clipper at your earliest convenience OR email that you have read this newsletter. Thanks so much.

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