



# Imagine Foundations Public Charter School Newsletter

MARCH 7, 2011

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

## Dates to Remember

March 8<sup>th</sup> –  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Progress  
Reports Released

March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> –  
MSA Reading Test  
Grades 3 – 6

March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> –  
MSA Math Test  
Grades 3 – 6

March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> –  
MSA Science Test  
Grade 5

March 31<sup>st</sup> –  
End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

## Staff Birthdays

March 30<sup>th</sup> –  
Ms. Barrett



## Principal's Message

*Dear Parents, Partners and Stakeholders,*

*The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is soon approaching. Grades 3-6 will test in reading on March 8th and 9th and in Math on March 15th and 16th. Our students and teachers have been working diligently to prepare for this test all year long. It is my hope that we will have a 100% participation rate. Please make sure your child is in school and on time each testing day. Testing will begin promptly at 8:45 a.m. All testing students who are present and on time, as well as put forth 100% effort each testing day will be invited to an MSA Ice Cream Social on March 16th. Please encourage your child to do his/her best on this test.*

*On another note, the details for the location of our new school for next year are still in process. Please bear with us as we finalize the deal. It is our plan to be able to present the location to our parents in March.*

*This has been a Fabulous February and we are looking forward to a Marvelous March! I am happy to say that our instructional program, high expectations, mission and vision have and will remain the same during this leadership transition. Our goal is to continue to move forward and to be the best charter school in the state of Maryland.*

*Thank you for your continued support. Have a great month.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chenee Dwarte  
Acting Principal*



## Counselor's Corner

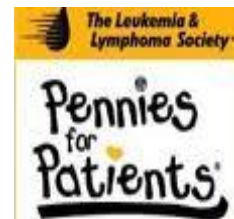
CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Sereda's fifth grade homeroom for achieving P.A.N.T.S. during the month of February! Our attendance rate has improved slightly, but we still have a long way to go. Attendance is extremely important to overall school success. Parents, *please* work with us in teaching this responsibility to our students.

The featured Pillar of Character for the month of March is also "**Respect**". A person of character values all persons, lives by the Golden Rule, respects the dignity, privacy, and freedom of others, is courteous and polite to all, and is tolerant and accepting of differences. Please speak with your child/children about the importance of showing respect for themselves, their classmates and teachers, and school property. Many of our students are having a hard time with this concept.

Our next Parent College will be on April 12, 2011 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. The topic will be "**Bullying and How Parents Can Help**". This will be a very beneficial parent college to ALL parents, no matter what grade your child is in. Facilitators will be Dr. Mary Jackson (Pupil Personnel Worker in Montgomery County) and Mrs. Partica Moore (School Counselor at Glenn Dale ES).

Please acknowledge the dates listed in last month's newsletter for Open House at Imagine Foundations Public Charter School. Applications will be available online at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org) now through March 18, 2011 at 5:00 pm. The lottery will be held on April 4, 2011.

Ms. Daves



## Nurse's News

Dear Parents,

March begins our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraiser, *Pennies for Patients*, with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. During the weeks of March 7<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>, we ask that you gather your spare change and send it in with your child to help raise money for a good cause. This year each child will have his own box to take home. This box must be returned by the end of the week so we can keep an accurate tally of the classroom total.

Family members will be able to donate on our school's website at <http://nca.syllsevent.org/Imagine>. The donation will be added to your child's classroom total. The classroom that raises the most money will again win a pizza party sponsored by Dominos Pizza. If the school raises greater than \$2200, the

"Developing dynamic individuals through hard work, academic achievement, and character education".

top two classrooms will win a pizza party. All the money collected goes directly to the local chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society where it is used for research, patient education and direct patient support.



This charity is personal to the Imagine family. As some of you may know, one of our 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers, Mrs. Williams, lost her younger sister, Kimberly Smith, to Leukemia in December 2009. Mrs. Williams recalls her sister being “one of the most giving and caring people I have ever known.” She asks that in her honor, our Imagine family show that same generosity to patients like her adding “my parents and I hope that in our lifetimes a cure will be found, so that no leukemia patient or their family will have to suffer the emotional, physical and financial hardships that cancer brings.” We will again celebrate Kim’s life on March 9<sup>th</sup>, her birth date, by wearing red wristbands.

At Imagine, we strive to teach our students the values of caring, giving and respect. What better way to do this than being involved with a charity? We ask that you encourage your child’s participation and thank you again for your support!

*Mrs. Wilder*

## **Kindergarten News**

Greetings Kindergarten Families!

In Phonics we will:

- Review all letters of the alphabet
- Review consonant sounds and short vowel sounds
- Introduce long vowel sounds
- Introduce digraphs ck, sh, and th
- Review sight words, spelling words, identifying initial, middle and end sounds in words
- Continue blending 3, 4 and 5 letter words

**For Home:** Continue to help your child blend and read the words on the Reading Practice lists that come home. Once your child is able to read all of the words on the sheet; check them off and return them to me. Thank you!

Reading -Unit 8: The Theme is Plants

Week 1 – How Trees Grow – Identify Sequence of Events

Week 2 – Seeds and Plants – Recognize Text Structure through Retell

Week 3 – What’s In My Garden – Draw Conclusions

**For Home:** Focus on describing words, similes, rhyming words and position words.

***Don't forget to read 15 minutes EVERY night!***



**History & Geography: Presidents, Past and Present**

**Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt embody important values like honesty, curiosity, hard work, and conserving natural resources.**

**For Home:** Keep an eye out for the upcoming Projects and Activities! They will be sent home in your child's homework folder as usual.

You can build vocabulary and increase children's comprehension skills by reading them stories about presidents:

*A. Lincoln and Me* by Louise Borden

*Abe Lincoln's Hat* by Martha F. Brenner

*Abraham Lincoln* by Pamela Walker

*A Big Cheese for the White House* by Candace Fleming

*George Washington* by Ingrid and Edgar Parin

*Mr. Lincoln's Whiskers* by Karen Winnick

*My Tour of Europe: by Teddy Roosevelt, Age 10*, by Ellen Jackson

*A Picture Book of Thomas Jefferson* by David Adler

*Theodore Roosevelt: A Photo-Illustrated Biography* by Steve Potts

*Ms. Reiter*

### **MATH AND SCIENCE:**

In Math, we will soon cover lessons 101-110 and the students will continue to focus on Number Operations, Measurements and Process Skills.

Students will discover and understand that:

- numbers can be compared
- there are bills to represent larger units of money
- when dividing, large groups of numbers are being broken into smaller equal groups
- standard mathematical tools are used to measure length

In Science, the students are learning about Wood and Paper. They will get to explore and investigate how they can change wood and paper.

Students will use different techniques and ways to recycle paper and create things made with papier-mâché', paper weaving and paper sculptures.

*Mrs. Lo*

## First Grade News

### MATH AND SCIENCE:

Dear Parents,

Thank you for coming to and donating for our Valentines Day Party, it was a blast!



In the month of March for Math we will:

- Learn to multiply by 10 and 5
- Subtract double digit numbers using regrouping
- Introduce new 3 dimensional shapes
- Counting using quarters

Our new math vocabulary is quarter, regroup, equal groups, multiply, and factor.

You can help your child learn at home by:

- Practicing basic subtraction facts using fact cards
- Practicing regrouping problems- these are an area of weakness that we ALL need more help in
- Have them tell you the time of day to 5 minute intervals and if it is am or pm
- Practice naming shapes such as triangular prism, rectangular prism, and spheres

In Science, we will wrap up our study of the moon, but continue to look at the Solar System for 2 additional weeks. We will discuss the universe, how stars are made, light years as a tool of measuring vast distances, and environments of the other seven planets in our solar system.

In general news, our school will sponsor the second annual “Pennies for Patients Fundraiser” that I hope all of our 1<sup>st</sup> grade will participate in. This month, we will host a bake sale at the school to raise money towards our class total. (A more detailed notice on this will follow).

Looking forward to a Great Month!

*Mrs. Williams*

**Spelling:** Spelling tests are usually scheduled every fifth day after the new spelling list is distributed. To aid your child with learning spelling words, and to help him or her successfully complete spelling tests, the following should be done at home:

Day 1: Write a sentence for each of the first six words.

Day 2: Write a sentence for each of the second six words.

Day 3: Write the first six words on the list three times each.

Day 4: Write the second six words on the list three times each, and study for the test.

Dictation is also tested as a part of spelling. Have your child write the dictation sentences once each of the four intervening days. Please dictate the words so your child can practice writing independently, without looking at the words as he or she writes. This will help your child practice sounding out the words and will strengthen phonics skills. Make sure your child pays attention to the punctuation at the end of each sentence and capitalizes the first word at the beginning of each sentence. These are still skills that have not been mastered.

**Social Studies:** Wow! Wow! Wow! The Mexico Social Studies Projects completed February 22, 2011 were extraordinarily beautiful and informative. The first graders have learned a lot of valuable skills by completing Social Studies projects this year. They have learned how to research for information, how to layout the information in report form and in booklets, the importance of a table of contents and clearly identified report sections, geography, how to label maps, how to prepare notes for oral presentations, and the importance and value added by including pictures in reports to highlight information.



The Mexico booklets were especially creative and beautifully prepared. They are booklets that are pleasing to the eyes. They make the reader want to read what is inside. These are collector items which the children should proudly keep forever!

Great job First Graders!

### **Reading and Writing:**

Please read with your child for 20 minutes each night. This exercise improves reading fluency. Fluency means students read easily, smoothly, and clearly without mistakes. Additionally, please ask the 5W comprehension questions: who, what, where, when, and why.


*Mrs. Frank*

### **Second Grade News:**


Greetings Second Grade Families!

I am excited to announce Acuity At Home online assignments are in full swing! All of the assignments given are recommended by Acuity based on individual and whole class weaknesses of the benchmark scores. The password is the same for all students: IFPG1234. Your child's user name should be written on the inside front cover of your child's agenda book. If you are not able to get on the Internet, please send me a note so I can print off the assignment for your child.


This month in Phonics, we will learn about:

- 
- Spelling rule a before l and a after w or qu
  - Final, stable syllable -sion
  - Digraphs ew, ey, and ue
  - Scribal O
  - Doubling rule
  - Sight Words- become, both, busy, measure, rough, sure, through, tough, woman, and women
  - Suffixes -es, -ous
  - The Rules vc / v parts 1 and 2, vcc /cv, vc / ccv, and v /cv with vowels


This month in Treasures, we will discuss two new weekly themes (Unit 4 weeks 4 and 5): Wild Weather and Habitats and Homes. Within these two themes we will learn about:

- 
- **Vocabulary:** Wild Weather: beware, destroy, grasslands, prevent, uprooted, violent. Habitats and Homes: beloved, glanced, gleamed, noble, promised, wiggled. Word parts (compound words and inflected verbs) will be discussed within these words.
  - **Comprehension:** Monitoring comprehension, rereading, making and confirming predictions, and making inferences
  - **Grammar:** Irregular verbs, book titles, and contractions,
  - **Writing:** Compare and contrast paragraph, and a book report

This month in History and Geography, we will continue our discussion of American history. Our projects will focus on The War of 1812. Some important concepts we will be covering are:

- 
- President James Madison and Dolley Madison
  - British imprisonment of American sailors
  - Old Ironsides
  - British burn the White House
  - Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key, and "The Star-Spangled Banner"
  - Battle of New Orleans, Andrew Jackson

**At Home:**

- 
- ✓ *Don't forget to read 15 minutes EVERY night!*
  - ✓ Build reading comprehension by asking questions based on the comprehension skills we are learning in class when your child reads for those precious 15 minutes.
  - ✓ **PLEASE HELP!! Practice grammar, mechanics, and punctuation** with your child(ren) daily: correct punctuation, complete sentences, capitalization, apostrophes in contractions, and correct use of quotation marks. This is one of the **lowest** areas on Benchmarks 1, 2, and 3 for all students.
  - ✓ Pay attention to the homework pages that come home. **Every concept you see will be tested on.**
  - ✓ Keep an eye out for upcoming Projects and activities that are sent home

every Monday.

Also, we are running out of essential school supplies like paper, pencils, tissues, sanitizing wipes, dry erase markers, etc. All donations will be greatly appreciated!

*Mrs. Grode*

### **MATH AND SCIENCE:**

As we move along into March, let's look forward to Spring!

In math we will begin to learn about:

- Estimating sums and differences of three-digit numbers
- Adding and subtracting fractions with denominators of 2, 3, and 6
- Reading and writing roman numerals to 31
- Reading and writing money amounts using fractions and decimals
- Making reasonable predictions by collecting and analyzing data
- Finding the square roots of perfect squares
- Adding decimal amounts of money
- Estimating and measuring distance using feet, yards, and meters
- Estimating and finding the area of a rectangle
- Determining the likelihood of an event and the fairness of a game

In Science class we are ending our unit Air and Weather with The Water Cycle.



We will learn about:

- Evaporation, condensation, precipitation, groundwater, humidity, clouds

Please make sure your child completes and turns in their homework everyday...it is essential to their learning!

Practicing daily with addition, subtraction, and multiplication flash cards helps your child to master their basic facts. Math-drills.com is a great website where a lot of additional practices can be found!

Thank you for all of your support!

*Miss Barrett*

## **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE READING & LANGUAGE ARTS** **MARCH NEWS**

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!**

Greetings Imagine Families,

We are now embarking in our new unit in Treasures. The unit theme is Achievements. We will be reading stories and nonfiction articles about

characters and people setting goals, working hard to achieve their goals, and their accomplishments.

## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The following are the skills and the strategies we'll be working on in Reading/History & Geography during the month of March.

### Reading Skills and Strategies

Theme  
Make Judgments

### Writing

Business Letter  
News Story

### Grammar

Adjectives and Articles  
Adjectives that Compare

### Spelling

Final el  
Prefixes re-, un-, dis-, pre-

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Core Knowledge Novel

"Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson



### World History and Geography

The Thirteen Colonies

Reminder: MSA Reading Testing will take place on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

General Tips for MSA Success

- Make sure your child gets enough rest
- Eat a good breakfast
- Arrive on time

*Ms. Deal*

### MATH AND SCIENCE:

In the beginning of the month, we will focus all of our energy on the MSA.

After MSA we will begin a new science unit using the Ideas and Inventions Module. We will learn techniques for observing things that would otherwise be difficult to see. It looks like we have an interesting and exciting couple of months ahead. In this module, students will explore the techniques of rubbing, carbon printing, chromatography, and mirror imagery. After learning each technique, students will be challenged to come up with an invention of their own.

We will also learn about great inventors throughout history. Some are well known, and some are lesser-known "kid inventors" who have made valuable contributions to society. Many inventions that you use every day were initially labeled mistakes or failures. Perseverance and insight are two dimensions of invention.

Our classroom will be even livelier than usual in the next several weeks. If you have any questions or comments, call or come in and visit our class.

The following concepts are what we will concentrate on in Mathematics for the month of March:

- ❖ Multiplies using the multiplication algorithm
- ❖ Masters division facts
- ❖ Divides 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers by a single digit number
- ❖ Check division with multiplication
- ❖ Solves problems involving division
- ❖ Divides using the division algorithm
- ❖ Writes story problems for division number sentences
- ❖ Compare, order, and identify equivalent fractions
- ❖ Pictures decimal fractions
- ❖ Adds and subtracts fractions
- ❖ Identifies, describes, and classifies polygons
- ❖ Identifies and shows transformations: translations, rotations, and reflections
- ❖ Estimates temperature
- ❖ Reads ad Fahrenheit or Celsius thermometer
- ❖ Identifies common temperatures
- ❖ Identifies units of mass
- ❖ Estimates mass
- ❖ Weighs objects using customary or metric units
- ❖ Compares and orders objects by size
- ❖ Measures area using nonstandard units
- ❖ Estimates area
- ❖ Find the mean and median of a set of data

\* \*\*We are in need of tissues in the classroom. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. \*\*\*

Remember to please check over each homework question with your child and practice multiplication and division facts. Also for extra practice I have set up tests online that the students can study from.

Please email me if you would like the information to access that site. I will continue to send out study guides for all of the written assessments. Please be on the look out for those. I will also continue to update my Schoolnotes.com page with weekly homework assignments, important updates, and study guides.

*Mrs. Doughty*

## **Fourth Grade News**

Happy March Parent(s)/Guardians!

We are **march**ing right along in 2011, aren't we?

Primarily, this month we will still be in our 3<sup>rd</sup> sub-theme within our 5<sup>th</sup> Unit in Reading/Language Arts: **Relationships**, as we took a pause from our typical

routine to review strategies and skills to prepare us for upcoming assessing!

Our writing focus during this theme will continue to be Descriptive Writing.

For Reading comprehension we will focus mainly on Evaluating, Fact and Opinion, Monitoring Comprehension, and Character Analysis.

The vocabulary strategies for this month are **Analogies: Relationships** and **Context Clues: Descriptions**.

In Grammar, the focus will continue to be Adjectives and then Comparing with More and Most.

In World History and Geography, we will move into a new monthly project. Stay tuned for the focus!

Reminders/Notices:

- Donations are consistently being accepted for our Treat Basket, which, currently, due to the majority of students behaving well is low! 😊

Thank you in advance for your donations! 😊

Tip of the Month: **Know who your child's friends are** and how he or she interacts with other children.

Thank you for being your child's first teacher!

Mrs. Pike

## 4th GRADE NEWS MATH AND SCIENCE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Yes everyone, it is March already! March is the month for MSA and we all have been working assiduously for our children to be ready and to perform excellently on the tests.

### Math Focus:

Continue to ensure that your child practices Math every day because that is the only way to be successful in this subject. Practice, practice, practice! I cannot emphasize this enough! This is the only avenue through which Math concepts are cemented.

MSA Math will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and the children must be ready. Up until that time your child will bring home work that is aligned to concepts that will be assessed. This will be in the form of worksheets and assignments on Acuity. Please have your child practice at least thirty minutes daily, as their assignments are set to meet their specific needs.

After the MSA, we will continue to work directly from Saxon Math, moving forward from lesson 74. We will emphasize exponents and square roots, multiplying and dividing fractions, reducing fractions, as well as units of capacity.

**Science Focus:**

After the MSA, we will go back to more intense work in Science, as we had placed the learning of the regular units on hold in order to have more Math practice. Energy and Matter will be our first unit after the exams. As mentioned before, we will conduct four investigations entitled, Energy, Light, Matter, and Changing Matter. Students will enjoy learning about how matter and energy relate to life!

**Note:**

Thanks to the parents who are ensuring that your children turn in homework at all times. Some students are becoming delinquent in this area, so your concerted effort in ensuring that they submit homework is paramount. Let us continue to work together for the good of our children!

Mrs. Holding-Smith



**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading & Language Arts  
MARCH 2011 NEWSLETTER**



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**Up, Up and Away With  
Reading!!!**

**Greetings 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s) & Students!** For the month of March, our Treasures Unit 6 Theme, *Great Ideas*, will take us on a magnificent journey of balloons in flight! Our main selection, titled "Up in the Air: The Story of Balloon Flight", will take us back in time with the history of the very first balloons in flight! We will then explore the theme further with a science link that will teach us how this wonderful invention was designed and operated in the past to present day.

**Be on the lookout for your "Home-School Connection" with the beginning of each new weekly theme. And remember, to help your child develop a LOVE for reading, visit your local library and check out books that relate to our weekly themes. This will allow each student to make connections with different types of literature on the same topic. They can also bring their books to class to share with their classmates!**

**Thank you, in advance, for your support of our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class!!**

**Treasures Unit 6 Concepts:**

**Reading Comprehension Strategies/Skills:  
Monitor Comprehension/Make Generalizations**

Vocabulary Strategies:  
Word Parts: Greek Roots

Spelling/Phonics:  
Number Prefixes

Grammar:  
Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

Writing:  
Explain How  
Something Works

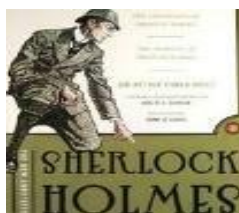
### 3rd Quarter Core Knowledge Novel

"Sherlock Holmes"

By: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Weekly Reading Assignments & Vocabulary!

Final Exam at the End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter!



### World History & Geography Monthly Projects

March Research Project: **The Renaissance and The Reformation**

*Mrs. Gordon*

#### **MATH AND SCIENCE:**

Greetings Teammates!

Please continue to check agenda books nightly for homework assignments and other important information. With the weather getting nicer and more out of school activities starting, "life" gets real busy. Please remember to stress the importance of homework to your student(s).

The following is what we will cover over the next few weeks.

- Brief Constructed Responses (BCR)
- Fraction Problems
- Angles
- Measurement
- Capacity
- Comparing Decimals
- Lines
- Line Segments
- Rays
- Mean, Median, Mode, Range
- Exponents
- Flips, Slides, Turns
- Graphs
- Interpreting Data

Please continue working with your student daily on BCRs. We use the R.E.C. method which stands for Restate the problem, Explain your answer using examples/steps, and Conclusion.

Note: Science will be continued directly following the MSA. We will work on the unit called **Water Planet**. Please be on the look out for a letter coming home that will outline the unit.

*Mr. Sereda*

Dear Sixth Grade Family,

Well...we made it! MSA is here and we are ready! Please, Please, Please make sure students are at school on time and ready to test.!

After testing, we will continue working in Unit 6- "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow".

Here is an overview of what we will cover for the month of March in our Treasures Program:

**Unit Themes:** Unit 6- "Great Designs Last Forever

**Reading Comprehension Skill:**

- Summarizing
- Making Generalizations

**Grammar**

- Comparing with Good and Bad
- Adverbs

**Writing Skills and Application**

- How-to Essay
- Eye Witness Account

**Social Studies**

- Is Freedom Really Free? A Closer Look at the French Revolution (2005)

Current Core Knowledge Novel  
Witness by Karen Hess  
Fight for Your Life by Goodwin Cheu

Students are reading these books simultaneously and completing questions as they read.

Students are responsible for reading assigned pages or chapters for homework. Students are given activities to complete for each chapter in the book.

On MSA testing days, our class needs the following to refuel after the test :

- Peppermint
- Water
- Fruit Snacks
- Granola Bars
- Chips

Please be mindful that students must complete **all** homework assignments each night to ensure comprehension and success. The MSA is approaching quickly, so students will have MSA reading or test prep homework twice a week and weekends. **Remember, homework is 15% of student's total grade.** Please make to check your child's homework and class announcements at our class website @

<https://sites.google.com/site/2021eaglesville/>

#### Upcoming field trips

America I am Exhibit- DC  
Howard University Spring Visit-DC  
Disney Y.E.S. Program – FLA



Please have your child read to you each night. Your interest, praise, and encouragement are sure to lead to your child's success.

*Miss McBurrows*

#### **MATH AND SCIENCE:**

Greeting Parents and Friends!

We are only a few days away from the MSA! We are continuing to work very hard to prepare our students for the MSA and to achieve our goal of 100% passing.

After the MSA, we will move on to complex fractions, areas of complex figures, multiplying exponents and interior and exterior angles.

Science will come back in full swing, focusing on simple machines. As always, make sure to check School Max weekly, check for homework, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email.

Also, make sure you check the class website:  
<[sites.google.com/site/2021eaglesville](https://sites.google.com/site/2021eaglesville/)>

*Mr. Connelly*

