



Imagine Foundations Public Charter School Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

Dates to Remember

Sept. 29th -
Holiday
Schools Closed

Sept. 30th -
Professional
Development
Schools Closed
for Students

Staff Birthdays

Mrs. Wilder
Sept. 24th

Mr. Sereda
Sept. 25th



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We have made it through the first couple of weeks of school! I would like to thank all families for their patience as we worked through the transition to our new campus. Even after the earthquake and hurricane we are still headed in the right direction as a school.

We still offer all of the same classes and programs we have always had, however, we have added Music and Spanish. We are also excited to offer a variety of extracurricular activities. Please look out for information about those activities and let us know if you are interested in starting any or being of any assistance.

We are all very excited to finally be in our new school and I see many students taking pride in it. Currently, we still do not have internet access. We are working diligently to have internet installed throughout the campus and we are hoping to have connectivity within the next week or two. Additionally, we are working with the cafeteria staff to ensure that our students receive hot lunches within the next week or two. You will be notified once we have a definitive date as to when hot lunches will be served.

*Please keep safety in mind during arrival and dismissal. We ask that you obey the direction of the staff members and adhere to the direction and flow of traffic. Please **DO NOT** remove the traffic cones as they are there to assist with the flow of traffic. Additionally, please **DO NOT allow your child to exit your vehicle on the driver's side.** For the safety of all children, please have them exit the vehicle on the passenger side only. We are asking for your patience during the afternoon dismissal. Our school has grown by*

57 students and we have more vehicles. We will continue to work together to get students out as quickly and safely as possible.

Due to the fact that we have no internet connection, we realize that it is difficult for some parents to communicate with teachers. Until our internet is connected, I would recommend contacting teachers by calling the school and leaving a message. Visiting a teacher when you drop your child off is not appropriate because it takes the teacher away from starting his/her day with students.

*If you need to visit the school for any reason you must report to the main office and request a Visitor Pass. **Please enter the school at the front of Seton Belt Hall at all times.** We have had a number of parents walking around the campus without signing in. Security has been alerted and any one without a pass will be required to report to the office or exit the campus. Additionally, students should only enter the campus in the front of Seton Belt Hall. Please do not drop your child off near any other part of the campus regardless of where their first class is.*

We do not allow parents to come to observe classes because it can be a disruption to the teacher and students. However, we will schedule a class visit day for parents in October. If you would like to volunteer in your child's classroom, you must contact your child's teacher and have a background check through Prince George's Board of Education.

Imagine Foundations Public Charter School works in partnership with Imagine Foundations PTO. The PTO has suggested that parents submit school wide related issues to them and they will address it with the school administration and get back to you. If you have a concern about an individual teacher, please address it with the teacher and/or school administration. The PTO provides a monthly newsletter and they communicate a large amount of school information via email. If you are not a member of the PTO you will not receive emails or newsletters from them. I would encourage all families to become a member of the PTO as this is an additional form of communication from the school. Membership forms were sent home in the Monday folder and they can also be found on our website.

Again, thank you all for your support and patience. I am looking forward to an excellent year.

Sincerely,

*Chenee Dwarte
Principal*

REMINDER

All students must have an emergency card on file at the school. If you have not completed a white card yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Counselor's Corner



Greetings Parents/Guardians!

We have had an interesting start to the 2011-2012 school year...BUT in spite of the earthquake and hurricane, we are EXCITED about what this year has in store for us!

At Imagine Foundations I Public Charter School, we not only want your child to be successful inside the classroom, we want them to be successful in all aspects of life! We will continue to teach and model positive character development focusing on the following character traits on campus and ask that you reinforce these traits at home through modeling and engaging in stimulating discussions about the value of good character:

- Responsibility
- Trustworthiness / Integrity
- Citizenship
- Caring
- Fairness
- Respect
- Cooperation
- Perseverance
- Courage

We will also continue to strictly enforce our attendance policy. Students are expected to be in class no later than 8:30 a.m. each day. There will be consequences for parents and students that continue to be tardy concerns. Please refer to your Parent Handbook in regards to student attendance.

Parent Colleges will continue to be offered each quarter this school year on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 pm. The first Parent College will be on October 4, 2011. Topics offered will be geared towards helping you to become more knowledgeable of issues students may face and how you can assist them.

If you need to contact me, I can be reached at erica.daves@pgcps.org. Let's make it a GREAT 2011-2012 school year!

Ms. Daves

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

Special Area News



ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

Hello Parents,

My name is Ms. Ortañez. I am delighted to introduce myself as your child's art teacher for the 2011-2012 school year. This is my first year at Imagine Foundations Public Charter School. I must say that I am impressed by the diligence and dedication shown by the community so far! I would like to thank you for the early support in providing your child with supplies. I look forward to using those materials for enriching experiences in the art classroom.

I believe that art has a profound effect on a student's character. The hands-on experiences in art will provide the perfect platform for cross-curricular connections and divergent thinking. My job as an art teacher is to keep the creative muscle active in order to prepare for a future of lifelong learning!

I will be introducing Shape, Line and Color to K-2 students. We will learn how these elements are identified and combined to make up a picture. Creative exercises will help our young students develop fine motor skills in drawing, as well as cutting and pasting.

For grades 3-5, instruction will focus on Creative Expression. The activities will involve displaying schematic knowledge in Life Science, specifically Animals and Nature. We will also observe elements of art in a masterwork, such as Vincent van Gogh's famous sunflowers.

For grades 6-7, we are studying Historical and Cultural Influences in the Art World and using observation models of Art Criticism and Aesthetics. Ask about these exercises, as they may prove helpful whenever you and your child go to museums! Sixth and seventh graders will also work to refine their drawing skills using observation.

Grades are based on class work, participation, tests and quizzes, and homework. The first homework assignment is to complete a pre-instructional self-portrait (drawing of themselves) on an unlined 8½ x 11 copy paper.

The art department can always make the most out of donations and odds & ends for various projects! So far, we are off to a good start with our art bins. I would love to see our students bring in more markers, glue sticks, and watercolor palettes. Again, thank you for your support and here's to a creative school year!

Ms. Ortañez



Physical Education

Greetings Parents and Guardians!

We are all excited about our new home on Oak Grove Rd. I am especially happy about having a gymnasium to teach your children. With that in mind, we will be able to do more activities and I can teach more skills. This will be a great year!

Things to know-

- Grades 3-7 will require athletic shoes, not just a soft street shoe.
- Try to have secured lace-up or Velcro straps on shoes for grades K through second grade.
- **Classes will not change into physical education uniforms this year.**
- Have students keep athletic shoes in lockers if possible.
- Grades 2 through 7 may bring additional water on hot days. Grades K and 1 will have water provided.
- Schedules for specials will be noted in the individual agenda books.
- Nutrition: please try to give your children a good start in the morning with a good breakfast with low sugar and good nutrients (quick tips forthcoming in the next newsletter).
- Health classes will be a part of the 6th and 7th grade curriculum.
- Grading consists of 5 components: participation, effort, cooperation, objective completion and social behavior.

We will start the year off with fitness for all grades. Grades 4 through 7 will receive assessments based on the Fitness-Gram model. These will be available to you online with other pertinent information about your child's health. Hopefully, this tool will engage families in planning healthy strategies for improving children's attitude about eating and exercise.

Grades K through 2 will experience developmental movement skills. Grades 3, 4 and 5 will transition into team sports and lifelong activities. Grades 6 and 7 will execute the rules and regulations of team sports and create activities that interest them but secure the rigors that are necessary for improving healthy lifestyles.

Help me to help your children by engaging them in activities outside of school. 30 to 60 minutes of strenuous exercise is needed daily. You will receive additional information about resources that benefit your children.

Tennis rackets, footballs, bats, gloves and basketballs are in short supply. Please help out if you can. If you would like to donate any of the listed items, we would be greatly appreciative.

Thank you and have a great year! We are excited!!!!

Contact Info: john.rainey@pgcps.org

Mr. Rainey

Spanish Department



Hola Parents!

BIENVENIDOS a la clase de Español!

These past two weeks, the students have been motivated in learning how to introduce themselves in Spanish, the Spanish alphabet and phonetics while clapping in rhythm. They have had so much fun!

During the month of September, we will focus on:

- months and days of the year
- numbers 1-20
- how to express emotion
- review greetings and introductions learned these past few weeks of school

I am very excited about conversing more in Spanish with the children. Whenever I see the students on campus, I greet them with, "Hola, Buenos dias!" It is my expectation that they respond with, "Hola, Buenos dias Senora Garay!"

Senora Garay



Music Department

Happy New School Year Imagine Family! My name is Ms. Floyd and it is my pleasure to be your child's music teacher for the 2011-2012 school year!

I plan to implement a fun, but rigorous music curriculum. As a special subject teacher, I only see your child for two consecutive days every six school days. This schedule puts pressure on me as well as your child to learn the necessary information needed within a specified timeframe, therefore it is very important for your child to study and do their assigned homework.

In order to be successful in music, students must have S.W.A.G. S.W.A.G. is an acronym for Stay focused, Work towards our goal, Actively engage in class, and Go above and beyond.

The General Music curriculum introduces music appreciation through reading, writing and playing written music (theory). Students also learn about the history of music.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will mostly be focusing on movement in music. By the end of this month students will begin to participate in rhythm bands which use rhythm sticks, congas and other percussive instruments.

3rd and 4th grade students will also be focusing on movement as well as learning the fundamental basics of music notation.

I am requesting that students please purchase Yamaha Soprano Recorders (which should be less than \$10) by September 27, 2011. The Yamaha Soprano Recorder can be purchased from any local music store such as Music and Arts (3811 Evergreen Parkway - Bowie or 11200 Scaggsville Rd - Laurel), Dales Music (8240 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring) and Middle C Music (4530 Wisconsin Avenue NW - DC).

5th and 7th graders will mostly focus on the theory of music. By the end of this month, the students will start begin learning their keyboard/piano skills.

Once again, I thank you for welcoming me into the Imagine family and look forward to having a very fun and productive school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at MusicatImagine@gmail.com.

Ms. Floyd

Kindergarten News



Welcome to Kindergarten!

Saxon Math is the program that we use in kindergarten. It is a hands-on, success oriented series that emphasizes manipulatives and mental math. The program uses a multisensory approach to teaching and is designed for a varied grouped of children. Its use will enable all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basics of mathematics.

Mastery of mathematical concepts does not occur quickly, but requires that the concepts be practiced over a long of period of time. Parent assistance and support is much needed for a kindergartener to acquire these math skills.

During the month of September, our students will be introduced to Math concepts like Number Operations, Geometry and Process Skills. They will understand how to:

- solve addition and subtraction story problems
- identify geometric shapes and number of sides
- graph a picture on a pictograph
- count pennies
- divide a solid in half

In Science, our students will observe, compare and describe natural and synthetic materials such as wood and paper. As they investigate wood and paper in our first unit the students will:

- get to work and observe with five different types of wood
- use sandpaper to change the shape of their wood
- observe and compare properties of ten kinds of paper
- learn ways to transform paper by recycling
- explore a variety of techniques for making things from paper and wood

For our students to be successful this year, they need YOU, their parents to give them support and guidance as they accomplish their homework and projects. Check their agenda book daily, bring them to school on time and give them the necessary encouragement to do their best at all times.

Mrs. Lo



Hello, Kindergarten Families!

We are thrilled to welcome your student to Imagine Foundations Public Charter School. I am very excited to be working with our school's youngest scholars this year. Specifically, in my class, we will be working very hard on Phonics, Reading, History and Geography.

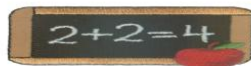
In the upcoming weeks, we will focus on a number of important concepts. We will work with the letters Ll, Oo, Gg, Hh, Tt and begin to blend sounds into words. We will also learn our vowels and begin our exploration into rhyming words. To develop our reading comprehension, we are working on making predictions and recognizing story structures. We will also become more familiar with maps and the landforms on them, which will become the basis for our first take-home project.

At home, you can continue your student's education in a number of ways. Of course, 20 minutes or more of reading a night is the best way to get your child more and more comfortable with text. You can read to them, they can read to you or some combination of both – whatever is most engaging for them and will get them excited about reading! You can also always look for ways to make “literacy moments” – ask your child to point out letters he/she knows in the supermarket, label drawings, or arts projects with their letters or words.

We will finish Stanford 10 testing soon, and I am excited to get that data back and begin to set specific goals for each student. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns or comments at angiemcphaul@pgcps.org.

Ms. McPhaul

First Grade News



Welcome to first grade! I am looking forward to a fun and exciting school year!

Math class is comprised of four parts:

1. **The Meeting:** is a time when the students practice every day skills i.e. the calendar, a number pattern, a word problem, temperature, time, and money.
2. **Fact Practice:** daily practice to master skills
3. **New Concepts:** a new skill is introduced each day
4. **Written Practice:** reinforces new concepts from the lesson as well as from previous lessons. Side A is completed in class and side B is to be done for homework.

In math class we will learn about:

- a. Showing information on a graph
- b. Telling time to the hour; telling the time it was one hour ago and one hour from now
- c. Writing two-digit numbers
- d. Identifying ordinal positions from first to sixth
- e. Solving problems by acting them out
- f. Identifying even or odd
- g. Identifying the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{6}$
- h. Making a repeating pattern

In science class we will work on our first unit; Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. We will:

- Observe several different kinds of rocks
- Compare properties of different rocks
- Sort rocks in different ways
- Observe rocks interacting with each other and with water
- Explore a river rock mixture containing earth material particles of various size
- Use screens to separate and group river rocks by particle size
- Investigate properties of pebbles, gravel, sand, silt, and clay particles

Please make sure your child completes and turns in their homework every day, it is essential to their learning. Practicing daily with addition and subtraction flash cards would give your student a head start to mastering their basic facts. Math-drills.com is a great website where a lot of additional practice can be found!

Mrs. Fanning

Greetings First Grade Families!

Listed below is what we will cover during the month of September in Phonics, Reading, and History & Geography and how you as parents can help!

Phonics:

- Review the following names and sounds of these letters: Nn, Oo (short and long), Tt, Pp, Ii, Ll, Aa (short), Zz, Ss, suffix –s, blends, Dd, Ff, Hh, Gg and Rr.
- There will be an assessment every fifth lesson
- Review sight words, spelling words, identifying initial, middle and end sounds in words
- Blend 3, 4 and 5 letter words

For Home: Please read the paragraph at the bottom of your child’s phonics homework to understand what he/she learned about that day.

Reading -Unit 1: Outside My Door

Comprehension Skills:

- Identifying Main Idea and Details
- Retelling
- Sequence
- Summarizing
- Visualizing

Grammar:

- Nouns
- Plural Nouns
- Irregular Nouns
- Days, Months and Holidays

Writing:

- Reports
- How-to Sentences
- Story



For Home: Practice the above skills with your child a little bit each night. When reading with them, help them to develop their comprehension skills by asking “Think Aloud” questions such as:

- **What do you think is the main idea in this story?**
- **How do you know that is what the story is about?**
- **Can you retell what happened in the story from the beginning to end?**

Help your student to identify the above nouns throughout your every day routines: Is the word refrigerator a noun? Why? Is it a person, place or thing?

READ 20 MINUTES EACH NIGHT!

History & Geography:

Students will learn the following:

- Review the seven continents
- Locate the Indian and Arctic Oceans
- Locate Canada, US, Mexico and Central America
- Locate the equator and Northern and Southern Hemispheres
- Vocabulary: peninsula, harbor, bay and island

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

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2011-2012 school year with your child here at Imagine Foundations PCS!

Mrs. Sereda

**2nd GRADE READING & HISTORY AND
GEOGRAPHY NEWS!!**



Greetings Imagine Families,

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! I am so excited about this new and upcoming school year at our new campus! I'm dedicated to giving your child the best learning experience possible.

Snapshot of Learning for the month of September

Saxon Phonics

- Review of consonants and vowels
- Digraphs
- Sight words
- Combinations
- Rules

Treasures Comprehension Strategies/Skills

- Summarize/ Identify Sequence of Events
- Generate Questions/Make Inferences

Grammar

- Plural Nouns
- Proper Nouns
- Possessive Nouns

Writing

How-to Paragraph
Report
Friendly Letter

World History and Geography

- Ancient India



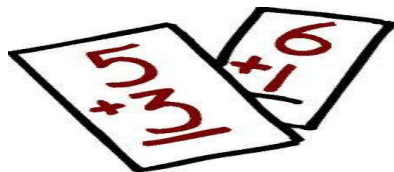
Reminders to parents:

- Turn in school supplies.
- Due to the size of our campus and the transitioning from one class to another, students need to bring umbrellas in case it rains.
- Turn in family emergency card information.
- Send a small white poster board for writing.

If you have any questions, contact me at trendlyon.veal@pgps.org.

Ms. Veal

Math and Science:



Dear Parents and Guardians...welcome to 2nd grade!

Math class is comprised of four parts:

1. The Meeting: is a time when the students practice every day skills i.e. the calendar, a number pattern, a word problem, temperature, time, and money.
2. Fact Practice: daily practice to master skills.
3. New Concepts: a new skill is introduced each day.
4. Written Practice: reinforces new concepts from the lesson as well as from previous lessons. Side A is completed in class and side B is to be done for homework.

Please make sure your child completes and turns in their homework every day, because it is essential to their learning. Practicing daily with addition and subtraction flash cards will give your child a head start to mastering their basic facts.

Math-drills.com is a great website where a lot of additional practice can be found!

In science class, students will start the year off learning about plants and insects.

Students will:

- observe various insects over a time period to learn about their habitats, characteristics, and life cycles
- grow plants and care for them over time to learn about their characteristics and life cycles

Mrs. Williams

Third Grade News

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Third Grade! I am proud to be a member of the IFPCS Staff and community and look forward to sharing in an exciting and rewarding year with you and your child. As we work together to instill in each child a sense of self-confidence, self-worth and responsibility, it is my hope that each will strive for his/her highest potential. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time during the year. I am easily accessible through email at jessica.brock@pgcps.org.



Our first Science unit that we will focus on is the water unit. Water is the most important substance on Earth. Water dominates the surface of our planet, changes the face of the land, and defines life. These powerful pervasive ideas are introduced here. The **Water Module** consists of four investigations in which students explore properties of water, changes in water, interactions between water and other earth materials, and how humans use water. Some books that you can obtain at the library to reinforce their knowledge of the water module are:

- All About Water by Melvin Berger
- America's Wetlands by Frank Staub
- A Drop of Water by Walter Wick
- Great Experiments with H₂O by Noel Fiarotta and Phyllis Fiarotta
- The Nature and Science of Rain by Jane Burton
- A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry

The following concepts are what we will study in Mathematics for the month of September. Our students will:

- Read and write numbers to 1,000,000,000
- Round numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, and thousand
- Identify place value in numbers to 999,999,999
- Identify multiples of a number
- Identify missing addends
- Master basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts
- Compare the values of sets of coins and writes money amounts

Remember to please check over each homework question with your child. The tests are almost an exact replica of the homework sheets. If students study the homework sheets and utilize the study guides, I am confident they will do extremely well on the assessments. Students will be given an assessment every 5th lesson. Practice, practice, practice with the multiplication fact cards!

Be on the lookout for information on our first monthly field trip! We are tentatively scheduled to visit Bowles farm on October 24th.

Mrs. Doughty

Reading/Language Arts:

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome back! I hope you had a safe and happy summer. I am delighted to have your child(ren) in my classroom. I know we are going to have another absolutely WONDERFUL year!!

For the month of September in Treasures, we will discuss three new weekly themes (Unit 3 weeks 2, 3, and 4): Wolves, Past, Present, and Future, and Out in Space. Within these three themes we will learn about:

- **Vocabulary:** Wolves: passion, admire, concentrate, splendid, bothering, dangerous, ached. Past, Present, and Future: objects, entertainment, predictions, computers. Out in Space: solar system, easily, farther, main, dim, temperatures, telescope, probably.

- **Vocabulary Strategies:** Multiple-meaning words, plural endings, definitions, and word clues.



Comprehension: Generating questions, fantasy and reality, summarizing, fact and opinion, and author's purpose.

- **Grammar:** Singular and plural nouns, irregular plural nouns, possessive nouns, sentence combining with nouns.
- **Writing:** Persuasive poster, personal narrative, and radio ad
- **Spelling:** Words with /ch/, words with th, wh, and sh, and words with consonant blends.

This month in **History and Geography**, we are learning about World Geography. Some important concepts we will be covering are:



- Spatial Sense
- Geographical Terms and Features
- Canada's Main Cities and Landmarks
- Important Rivers of the World



Novel for this quarter: Robin Hood and His Merry Outlaws by J. Walker McSpadden. This novel will need to be finished by the 1st quarter, which is October 28th. There are 269 pages, so in order for the book to be completed by that date, 4 pages must be read every single night.

What you can do at home:



- Pay close attention to the grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension worksheets that come home. Everything that is on those worksheets will be on the Treasures assessments and spelling tests. Their Treasures packet will be sent home the day before the Treasures test. Please go over the answers with your child, make sure the packet is complete, and that they understand what they are doing. If you have any problems, do not hesitate to email me.
- The number one most important thing to do at home is read to your child and/or have him/her read to you every night for 20-30 minutes. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to read and keep up with their novels!
- The love of reading is key to academic success.

If your child has not paid for or received an agenda book, please send in \$6.00 as soon as possible!

I consider it a great privilege to be your child's 3rd grade teacher this year, and I truly look forward to working with each of you to make your child's learning experience wonderfully enriching.

Mrs. Grove

4th GRADE NEWS MATH AND SCIENCE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the start of an exciting school year! It is a pleasure to have your precious child to work with. The month of September holds great prospects for you and your little ones. We anticipate an awesome year together.

Math Focus:

Instructions: For this month we will explore several number concepts, to include sequencing, place value, use of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), and the relationships among them in order to compute and solve problems. This will include small group instructions at least twice per week - beginning the third week of school. He/she will take notes as applicable in his/her notebook, as this will be necessary for the purpose of studying.

Test/Quizzes: The first will be after Lesson 10 and every 5 lessons thereafter (approximately three tests in this month). Ongoing reviews will be done in class and study guides will be sent home for approximately three days prior to test days.

Science Focus:

Instructions: For this month we will study Life Science via the unit Structures of Life, where your child will explore plants and animals. This will include several investigations, where your child will be active scientists. He/she will work in small groups and take notes for the purpose of studying.

Test/Quizzes: There will be a written assessment after each investigation, and at times part thereof. Your child will take home a study guide at about one week prior to each test/quiz, so that he/she will have ample time to prepare for this.

Homework: This will be given nightly for both subjects. **Math** will be on the written practice to each lesson. Hopefully, as our pace increases, we will begin this in class and complete it at home. You will be able to access the Math book on the school website. Mrs. Mandisa Wright (our Parent Representative for 4th grade) has also forwarded a copy of the book to all parents. If you have not received this please forward your email to her. THANKS A MILLION, MRS. WRIGHT!!!

Science will focus on reinforcement of material learned as well as extensions.

Note:

Please ensure that your child completes all homework assignments on time, as grades are awarded on this basis. Check his/her agenda book each day and encourage him/her to write down all of the homework assignment.

I look forward to a wonderful time of learning this month!

Mrs. Holding-Smith

Happy September Parent(s)/Guardians!

It is my pleasure to be your child's 4th grade Reading Language Arts, World History and Geography teacher! We have gotten off to a promising start and with hard work and dedication on the part of teacher, parent and student; this year has no choice but to be a great one!



Language Arts:

This month in Reading/Language Arts our theme is entitled, *Viewpoints*.

Our writing focus will be on Explanatory Writing.

For Reading comprehension we will focus primarily on:

- Drawing Conclusions
- Compare and Contrast
- Sequence and Persuasion
- Focusing daily on the additional skills of Main Idea, Generalizations, and Making Inferences.

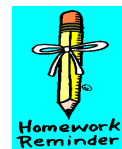
The vocabulary strategies for this month are:

Word Parts: Prefixes, Word Families, Context Clues: Definition, Descriptions; and Dictionary: Homographs.

The Text Features/Literary Elements/Study Skills we will focus on are: Line Graphs; Glossary; Meter and Rhyme Scheme; Protagonist and Hyperbole; and Using Computers.

In Grammar the focus will be on Pronouns.

In World History and Geography we will begin our journey, specifically with World Geography, focusing on Spatial Sense (Working with Maps, Globes, and other Geographic Tools) and then we will climb into Mountains and Mountain Ranges.



Reminders/Notices:

- The entire 4th grade has a NO EXCUSES homework policy. No late homework will be accepted. The consequence for turning in no homework is earning a 0. 0 = E.

- The entire 4th grade has the expectation that a parent's signature will be in the agenda book daily, even Fridays. This ensures that teacher, parent and student are on the same page concerning a student's behavior for the day as well as their homework.

- A Homework folder should come home daily. Students were told to replace the title of their Social Studies folder with the title "Homework". Please check to make sure this has been done.

- You cannot rely solely on what is in the Homework folder for assigned homework. The agenda book must be looked at in detail as well to reach the goal of 100% Homework completion.

- Every student should have agenda book by now. The cost of the agenda book is \$8.00. They also need the added items on the Supplies List: 2 Black Dry Erase Markers (low odor), cube sized boxes of tissue, hand sanitizer, and 1 tub of wet ones/baby wipes.

Tip of the Month: Communicate with your child about school. This includes talking to him about his friends, activities, teachers, and assignments.

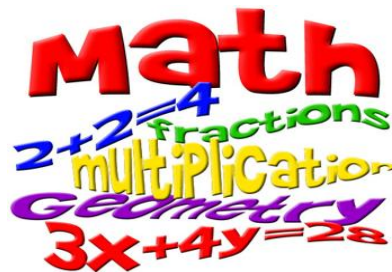
Thank you in advance for what I know will be a productive school year!

Mrs. Pike

Fifth Grade News

Greetings Teammates!

It was great to see the large turnout for Back to School Night! I was very pleased to see how involved you already are with the education of your student(s). This year is going to be an amazing one! I encourage you to check agenda books every night and ask your student(s) what he or she did in school every day. Please be sure to email me whenever you have a question! Email is the best way to contact me. Just in case you could not attend Back to School Night, my email is Stephan.sereda@pgcps.org.



I am excited to work with you on your students' journey to academic excellence! The following is what we will be covering over the next month in math and science:

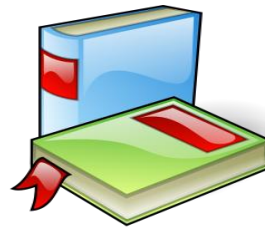
Math:

- Adding Whole Number and Money
- Subtracting Whole Numbers and Money
- Commutative Property
- Identity Property
- Zero Property of Multiplication
- Associative Property
- Problem Solving Techniques
- Test Taking Strategies
- Mental Math
- Math Language/Vocabulary

Science:

In Science Class, we are working in the **Electricity and Magnetism** module. This module is designed to introduce students to a variety of concepts surrounding electricity and magnetism and how they are related. Students will be completing hands-on investigations on a daily basis. You should have already received a parent letter all about our first science module that lets you know specifics about what our student(s) will be investigating. This letter will be sent home at the beginning of every new module. If you have not received one, please email me and I will get you one as soon as possible.

Mr. Sereda



Greetings,

To all new and returning students and parents, welcome to Fifth grade! I look forward to working with everyone to have a successful school year.

This year we will continue to use the Treasures program for Reading, Grammar, and Writing. We will cover the following topics during the month of September in our program:

Unit 2- Discoveries

Weekly Themes: “Slithery Snakes”, “Remembering the Past”, and “The Caribbean Islands”

Reading Comprehension Skills

- Main Idea and Details
- Problem and Solution

Grammar

- Singular and Plural Nouns
- Possessive Nouns

Writing

- Letter to the Editor
- Persuasive Essay

Social Studies

- Spatial Sense
- Lakes of the World

- Plural Spellings
- Possessive Nouns

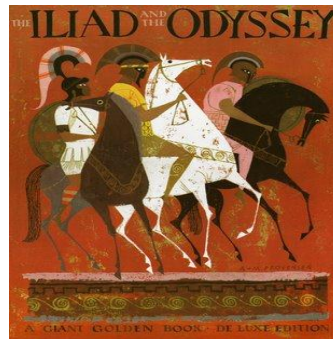
Writing Skills and Application

- Persuasive Writing
- Business Letter
- Editorial
- Expository Writing

Social Studies

- Greece
- Greek Mythology

Current Core Knowledge Novel



Tales From Homer : Stories From The Iliad and The Odyssey by John Bergez

Students are responsible for reading assigned pages or chapters for homework. Students are given activities to complete for each chapter in the book. They also will be tested on the vocabulary of each chapter.

Please be mindful that students must complete **all** homework assignments each night to ensure comprehension and success. **Remember, homework is 25% of student's total grade.**

Students must have the following for class:

- Pens (blue, black, red)
- 4-(3) ring binders
- Agenda book
- Dictionary
- Mechanical Pencils
- Filler paper
- USB Jump Drive

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

Ms. McBurrows

Dear Parents and Students,

I am Mrs. Fletcher, the new sixth and seventh grade Science teacher. I am pleased to be a part of the Imagine Foundations Public Charter School family and community. My core beliefs as a teacher and a mother are aligned with Imagine's Vision, Mission and Goals.

For the first six weeks, the students will learn and review Earth Science with a concentration on "Solar Energy." Although the 6th & 7th grade objectives may be the same, the activities and evaluative assessments will differ. Please check School Max on a regular basis to ensure your student is on target and feel free to contact me at Tasha.Fletcher@pgcps.org.

I look forward to building parental partnerships in an effort to develop and promote excellence!

Mrs. Fletcher



Welcome Back!!

Welcome to seventh grade and another exciting year here at Imagine Foundations Public Charter School! Despite the recent weather and school closings, we have started strong here in Seventh Grade Language Arts and Social Studies! I am extremely excited to continue strong and to make this our most successful year yet!

For Language Arts, seventh grade has moved away from the Treasures curriculum and to the Prentice Hall curriculum. We have started with Unit One: Fiction and Nonfiction. During the month of September, we will continue to work with this as we try to answer the unit's Big Question: What is the best way to find the truth? By examining different works of fiction and nonfiction, students will examine different ways in which they can find the truth.

During September, we will begin a heavy emphasis on writing. Aside from the five paragraph essay that they will write in answering the Big Question, students will also complete different "Writer's Workshops," where they will be actively engaged in the different stages of writing. In these workshops, students will complete a descriptive essay and an autobiographical narrative. More information is forthcoming on how these writing assignments are to be completed.

We will also continue to work on grammar. In September, students will spend a

good portion of the month reviewing parts of speech. Any grammar needs that are seen in writing samples will also be addressed.

We will begin the first of our five novels this month. Our first novel is *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. It is my expectation that students read the entire book. Quizzes will be given periodically throughout the reading of the book, as well as a final in-class assessment and project related to the novel. More information is forthcoming.

In Social Studies, students will continue to look at maps, themes of geography, elements of culture, and the beginnings of civilization. There will be two projects that are started in September. Our in-class project will be a collage of the different elements of culture as seen in the world today. The at-home project will be for students to create their own islands. In doing so, they will need to use the features of maps, themes of geography, and elements of culture. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

As you can see, we have a very busy month ahead of us. To get the most up to date information, please visit our class website at <https://sites.google.com/site/mrbriancuvo>.

Mr. Cuvo

Dear Parents,

I am so happy to be your child's math teacher for this school year. We are going to do some exciting and wonderful things in math. I want you to know that I am taking the practice of note taking and homework completion very seriously. When students take notes, it shows that they are actively participating in the learning session and homework completion demonstrates independent learning.

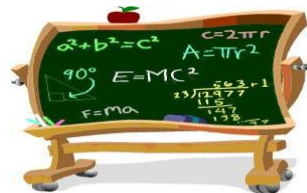
So that we are all on the same page please note the following policies.

- A. We are requesting that homework is turned in the day after it is assigned. Grading multiple papers is challenging on its own without having to deal with late submission. Hence, late assignments will not be accepted. No makeup assignments will be given (except for situations greater than a child's control).
- B. We strongly encourage parents to help their children with homework. We strongly discourage parents from completing a student's homework.
- C. All work must be completed in INK.
- D. We welcome your visits, but we must limit meetings to appointments only. This ensures that instructional time is uninterrupted for your child and other children. This is especially true during report card season. **Appointments are Mandatory.**
- E. Students are to have a three ring binder for math and math alone. Agenda books are part of their required materials.
- F. Since we love teaching and learning, we strictly enforce the

school traffic light system. It is different than the elementary school version. We expect that as we treat your children with more respect and responsibility, that they rise up to meter.

- G. I have given each student a phone number that I can be reached at after school hours; however I do ask that discretion is used. Also, due to religious observance, I will not answer calls from sundown Friday until after sundown on Saturday.

Here is a list of some of the things that we will cover for Course 2 and Pre-algebra:



Course 2

1. Arithmetic with Whole numbers and Money
2. Properties of Operations
3. Unknown numbers in Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division.
4. Number Line and Sequences
5. Place Value Through hundred Trillions
6. Factors and Divisibility
7. Lines, Angles, and Plans
8. Fractions and Percents
9. Adding, Subtracting, and Multiplying Fractions
10. Writing Division Answers as Mixed Numbers and Improper Fractions.
11. Investigation 1

Pre-Algebra

1. Number Line: Comparing and Ordering Integers
2. operations of Arithmetic
3. Addition and Subtraction Word Problems
4. Multiplication and Division Word Problems
5. Fractional Parts
6. Converting Measures
7. Rates and Average, Measures of Central Tendency
8. Perimeter and Area
9. Prime Numbers
10. Rational Numbers
11. Investigation 1

Mr. Seneque

