



Twin Ridge Elementary

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Upcoming Events

- Monday, September 4, 2023 - No School/ Labor Day
- Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - Back to School Night from 6:00 - 7:00
- Friday, September 22, 2023- 3.5 Hour Early Dismissal/ Fair Day/ Mid Term
- Monday, September 25, 2023 - No School/ Yom Kippur

CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: In reading, we will focus on close reading strategies to comprehend and extend our thinking with both informational and literary texts. When focusing on informational texts, students will quote the text accurately to explain what is directly stated or inferred. Students will read to determine the main idea of a short informational text and support it with key details. When focusing on literary texts, students will determine the theme, compare and contrast characters and events, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic. In both areas we will be working on summarizing the text.

Writing: In writing, we will begin the month by writing expository essays. Students will be engaged in a Writer's Workshop experience in which they will take their writing through the full writing process. We will discuss what quality expository writing looks like and complete the writing process which includes; prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, conferencing and publishing our writing.

MATH

This month we will continue working on identifying the attributes of rectangular prisms and their volume. Students will work to find the volume of a rectangular prism by multiplying its height by the area of its base. Students will also work to solve real world and mathematical problems involving volumes of rectangular prisms by applying the formula $V = L \times W \times H$.

During Unit 1, students will also work to multiply multi-digit numbers/ Students will use the distributive property to break apart factors in order to solve multi-digit multiplication problems. We will also use the standard algorithm to solve multi-digit multiplication problems with whole numbers.

To wrap up Unit 1, students will focus on dividing multi-digit numbers. Students will divide three and four-digit dividends by two digit divisors. Students will also use the relationship between multiplication and division to estimate quotients. We will divide multi-digit whole numbers using area models and strategies such as place value understanding, properties of operations, estimating quotients and finding partial quotients.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies will be taught during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

SCIENCE

This month we will continue exploring our first science unit on Earth Systems. During this unit, students worked to answer the driving question: What can we do as individuals and communities to protect the Earth's resources and environment? Students learned about Earth's major systems including the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and geosphere. This will connect to our Outdoor School field trip later on in the year!

During our second science unit, we will begin exploring Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems. During this unit, students will be working towards answering the driving question: How do you create a healthy and self-sustaining ecosystem? Students will learn the definitions of matter and energy to help with our understanding of food webs and food chains. We will be researching and observing crickets and anoles in our classroom!

PATHs UPDATES

We will be moving towards our second unit in the PATHs Lessons, which focuses on feelings.

Purpose and Skills

Together, we will work on identifying feelings in ourselves and in others. Being able to express our feelings appropriately are very important skills that need to be developed.. These skills help us understand ourselves, relate to others, control our behaviors, and solve our problems. We will discuss several important feelings during this school year. We will begin with the basic emotions of calm and tense. Later, we will cover more complex emotions such as motivated, guilty and anxious. Students will learn clues for how to recognize their own feelings and the feelings of others. We'll also learn more about how and why to consider another's point of view, how our behaviors affect other people, and how other people's behaviors affect them.

Comfortable and Uncomfortable Feelings

In our PATHs lessons, we talk about how all feelings are natural and OK to have. Behaviors are different. Behaviors can be "OK" or "Not OK." Children will learn about "comfortable feelings" and "uncomfortable feelings." We avoid using the words "good" and "bad" when talking about feelings. We do not want children to think that certain feelings are "bad." In fact, all feelings are OK to have. Whether they are comfortable (happy, calm, excited) or uncomfortable (sad, angry, disappointed), feelings give us valuable information. When we recognize our feelings, we can decide what to do about them.

The Feelings Thesaurus

Each student will receive a Feelings Thesaurus. It is a reference manual that will be used throughout the school year. In a series of lessons, we teach thesaurus skills and help children practice using the thesaurus to enrich their vocabulary. The goal of using the thesaurus is to help children become more precise in how they express themselves and also to improve their writing and communication skills.

Does talking about feelings solve problems?

Sometimes talking about feelings solves our problems, and sometimes it doesn't. Even when discussing feelings doesn't itself solve a problem, it can still help with finding a solution. Talking about feelings helps children to control themselves instead of acting impulsively. In addition, it can help them feel better when another person listens and cares. When we feel better, we can think about what to do next.

No single solution will work for every problem. We want to teach children to find different solutions for problems. However, there are some situations (failure, disappointment, grief) for which the best solution may be to talk with someone about how we feel.

Also, being able to talk about feelings can help in the later childhood and teen years. Talking frankly about feelings and problems now can help children later when they face difficult situations. In short, talking about feelings may not solve problem immediately. But it can help build trusting relationships and problem-solving skills.

What You Can Do At Home

1. When your child has a problem, ask how he or she is feeling. If he or she can't tell you, suggest some feelings to help him or her identify one. For example, "Are you feeling frustrated? Are you feeling disappointed and angry?"
2. Tell your child how you are feeling so he or she can be more aware of what is going on inside of you. In this way your child can learn to be more sensitive to your feelings and the feelings of others. We may think that our children understand how we are feeling. But they may really be confused. Of course, there will be times when your child won't want to share your feelings. These are good times to discuss the importance of privacy.

Article

Check out the following article that highlights the positive impact and practices of the PATHS curriculum. While the article focuses on primary implementation of the program, we have invested a full school roll out of the program at Twin Ridge.

[Article on Emotional Learning](#)

The Fifth Grade Team thanks you for your support and involvement in your child's educational journey. We have had a great start to the 2023-2024 school year and look forward to a spectacular September at Twin Ridge!