



# Twin Ridge Elementary

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## CURRICULUM UPDATES

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

During the winter months, your family may have some additional time to do reading related tasks/activities at home. There are several benefits to setting aside some time to read with your child at home. Below is a resource from [readingrockets.org](http://readingrockets.org) that describes the benefits of a read aloud and provides some tips that families can use at home.

## **MATH**

Questioning opportunities in math are part of a student's daily learning experience. Questioning is a strategy that can move student understanding of math concepts and skills beyond just remembering math facts or reproducing a skill such as an algorithm. Below is a bank of questions you can ask your child when working on math problems at home. This will help your child strengthen the mathematical practices of "Make Sense of a Problem", "Using Appropriate Tools Strategically", and "Attend to Precision" in their work.

### **"Making sense" questions**

- What do you notice that is mathematical in the problem?
- Can you retell the math story/situation in your own words?
- What strategy can you use to solve this problem?
- What operation makes sense for this problem? Why?
- Does this problem remind you of any other problems you have solved?
- Can you draw a picture or make a model to help solve the problem?

### **"Use Appropriate Tools Strategically" questions**

- What math tool will help you solve the problem?
- Why did you choose the selected math tool to solve the problem?
- How does this tool help you to have an accurate solution?
- Is there another tool that can be used to solve the problem?

### **"Attend to Precision" questions**

- Is your answer reasonable? How do you know?
- Can you explain the strategy you used? How do you know it works?
- Did you use words or symbols to label your solution accurately?
- Can you explain why your answer is correct?

## **Learning for Life**

Happy December Families!

This month we will focus on communication with peers. Our student will practice telling a friend the answer to questions, asking a peer for help and talking during play.

Math: We will begin our unit on problem solving. We will learn to problem solve a situation then check our work with the calculator.

Reading: In reading we will learn to recognize character traits in a story. We will begin with Princess and a Pea. I am proud of our growing readers.

Writing: In writing we are learning to compose sentences to communicate our thoughts! I am so excited about teaching our learners and leaders more ways to communicate.

Life skills: In December we will learn how to ask for help.

## **Preschool**

Happy December!

This is an exciting and busy month.

### **Reading at home**

- During this holiday season have your child help "write" a shopping list. Or have them dictate a list and let them watch you write the list.
- Sequence the steps on how to make a holiday treat.
- When reading a story continue to talk about the story elements (who was in the story, where did it take place, was there a problem and how was it solved).

### **Math at home**

- Our focus for math continues to be identifying numbers and understanding the relationship between numbers and quantities to 5, then to 10.
- We are learning that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted and recognizing the count remains the same regardless of the order or arrangement of the objects.

### **Social Emotional**

We continue to work on increasing self-control in the classroom. The children have learned the cue to "stop and think" and to use the "Turtle Technique" to help develop better self-control and to calm down. (1-Tell yourself to calm down. 2-Take a long deep breath. 3-Say the problem and how you feel.)

### **Reminders**

- We continue to make every effort to keep the class as germ-free as possible. We work with the students on caring for hygiene needs such as wiping their noses, covering their mouth when they cough, and washing their hands. Please remember to be considerate of other students in the class when your child is sick. Please give your child time to recover at home.
- Please remember to label your child's winter clothes

## **Special Education**

### **Important Dates:**

- December 1<sup>st</sup> 2 hour Early Dismissal (Mid-term)
- December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> Schools Closed for Winter Break
- January 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> Schools Closed

***Inclusive Schools Week is December 4- 8, 2023 Join us by Participating in Spirit Days:***

- **Monday, December 4** - Hats Off for Inclusion (Hat Day)
- **Tuesday, December 5** - Tie Dye Tuesday
- **Wednesday, December 6** - Wacky Wednesday
- **Thursday, December 7** - Be Comfortable, Be You (PJ Day)
- **Friday, December 8** - School Colors/School Spirit

(FCPS SPIRIT WEEK FLIER) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rCZwry8VQrqpH8YgvahE9FsiFT1d-8JM/view>

### **At Home Skill Building:**

As we continue to work with students to focus on things we can do, as a way to help build skills that are harder, consider talking to your child about their strengths and successes. One way to make our strengths visible for kids is to build a strengths chain. This is a way to list out accomplishments and see the chain lengthen as we continue to go and learn new things. Below you will find links to resources that can help you build a strengths chain at home.

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/strengths-chain-for-kids>

### **TIP of the Month:**

If you want to stay up to date on current school related or disability related learning topics, don't forget that FCPS has a parent resources page that can be a valuable resource. The link to the special education parent resources section of the FCPS website is: <https://www.fcps.org/special-education/special-education-parent-resources>

### **Reminders:**

Mr. Hargett, our Program Assistant, schedules all IEP meetings, please note that his email address is [Earl.Hargett@fcps.org](mailto:Earl.Hargett@fcps.org). If you receive an email from him, please know that it is in regards to scheduling an IEP meeting.

- FCPS has a Parent IEP Team Meeting Survey. We value your feedback and encourage you to complete the survey. Please share your IEP team meeting experience at: <http://bit.ly/ParentIEPSurvey>

## **Speech Therapy**

***Speech students will be bringing home "What Happened in Speech Today" forms at least once weekly. This form details what your child worked on during their session, their behavior, as well as any important notes for you to review.***

Throughout November, we discussed Thanksgiving food, turkeys, being thankful, and scarecrows. Students focused on autumn themed stories and engaged in fall-themed activities while working on their speech and language goals.

In the upcoming month, we will be focusing on different winter themes such as hot chocolate, cookies, and snow.

Here is how you can incorporate some December themes at home to help target your child's speech and language development:

- Articulation: Your child can work on their speech sounds while making cookies, playing in the snow, and describing the environment around them.
- Receptive Language: Your child can work on their understanding of language by following verbal or written directions while making hot chocolate or cookies, or while building snowmen and snow forts. Books are a great way to work on receptive language skills, you can have your child answer questions about what is happening, where someone or something is, when something happened, or why something happened.
- Expressive Language: Students can work on describing what they see or what they are doing, they can also work on recalling specific details from activities they have done previously. Winter themed books are also a great way to target expressive language – you can have your child describe what they see in pictures!
- Pragmatic Language: Engage with your child in activities and encourage conversations to help build social skills.

Books for this Month: *Winter Woes* by Marty Kelly, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow* by Lucille Colandro, and *The Mitten* by Jan Brett are great winter books to target speech and language skills!