



Vine Street School

January, 2018

January

- 9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 15 Martin Luther King Day-No School
- 26 School Pride Day Wear Red!

Focus Country: Peru



Winterfest 2018
February 12-16
Events Include:

- Crazy Hair Day
- Favorite Character Day
- Hats and Shades Day
- School Pride Day
- Mixed Up Day

January Theme:

Cold and Ice

Arctic Babies

by Lisa Darling

Snowflake Bentley

by J. B. Martin

Jack Frost

by William Joyce



Principal's Message

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a wonderful break. It may be freezing cold outside, but inside the Vine Street School we are ready to take on 2018! As hard as it is to believe, January marks the half way mark for this school year. This is the perfect time for us to measure our progress for this year and to make plans for the remaining months of school. Towards this end, teachers will administer several assessments near the end of the second quarter (January 26). Parents often have questions about the types of assessments we use. Please find more information about this topic on the next page. Teachers will report each individual student's progress on his or her report card. These go home on February 1, 2018.

The Passport to Reading Program has been very successful. Students are meeting challenges every day and getting

their passports stamped. It is exciting to see the students collect stamps, talk to staff about the books they are reading, and to turn their stamps in for free books they can keep for their very own. January's challenges are attached to this newsletter—enjoy!

Speaking of enjoyment, the favorite parts of my day are when I am reading with children. I am currently part of two book groups. One is a challenge that was issued to me to try a new book series—*Disney's Descendants*. The other is with one student who shares my love for fantasy books, so we are reading *Eragon*. It is so much fun to have a part of each day set aside to read with students. I love their insights and the conversations we have. I would encourage families to consider reading a chapter book together. Adults can do all the reading or share the reading with the child.

Dressing Warmly



This winter is bringing some very cold temperatures. As a reminder we will try to get children outside to play for recess as often as possible. Please send your child to school each day with snow pants, a jacket, winter boots, hat and mittens. If you need assistance purchasing these items, please contact Guidance Counselor Dana Morris.

Academic Excellence for All

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Staff will use the data collected this month to inform their instruction. Interventions and accelerations will be provided as needed.

Reading

Teachers will give students a Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment (F & P). Teachers give this test to students individually. The assessment includes opportunities for the teacher to listen to the child read to assess fluency and to talk to the child to determine how well the child comprehended the reading selection. Additionally, teachers take a written record of the child's reading to analyze after the session for accuracy, strategies used to decode words and attempts to correct errors. This information is vital in planning specialized instruction for each child. For students reading at higher levels, the F & P also includes a written component to assess how well the child can communicate in writing.

Math

Students will take a midyear assessment in mathematics. The Unit 1-8 Cumulative Assessment tests students' understanding of concepts taught during the first half of the year.

Students in grades 1-3 will take a math fact fluency test to assess their ability to fluently solve basic math equations. This is a quick, three minute assessment. Teachers will also work 1:1 with each student to learn what strategies he/she uses to quickly solve math equations. This information will help teachers design next phases of instruction.

Words Their Way

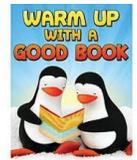
In addition to the assessments discussed above, students will also take a developmental spelling inventory so that teachers can design spelling instruction that is "just right" for every child.

Passport to Reading-January Challenges



Mrs. Silk-Books About the Ocean
Vine Street Staff—A book About Peru
Mr. Whitney-Books About Maine

Mr. Marks-A book about sports
Mrs. Timms-A book about Winter
Mrs. Lee-A book about math.



What We Will Learn This Month

PreK: Awesome Animals: Creep, Crawly Insects, Animals Grow and Change.

K-Reading: Math: More Addition and Subtraction. Reading-Predicting Change. Anchor Text: *What Will the Weather Be?* Writing: How-To Books.

1-Reading: Math: Expanding the Counting Sequence. Reading-Making Choices. Anchor Text: *Goods and Services*. Writing: Constructed Response Unit.

2-Reading: Math: Working with Time and Money. Reading-Building Ideas. Anchor Text: *Change Makers*. Writing: Informational Writing.

3-Reading: Math: Use Strategies to Add and Subtract. Reading-Connecting Character, Culture, and Community. Anchor Text: *Deep Down and Other Extreme Places to Live*. Writing: Opinion Writing.

School Focus Country: Peru

