

September
2018

**Maths
Class
Norms:**

****Everyone
can learn
math at high
levels****

**This is a
video we
watched
about
brains and
math:**

[https://
www.youtu
be.com/
watch?
v=3e9a4Hjc
9SM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3e9a4Hjc9SM)

**Code of
Cooperation**

*Focus and
Listen*

*Be
Responsible*

*Creative
And
Innovative
Ideas*

New Emerson School

We Visualize! We Believe! We Achieve!

Together, through the building of positive relationships, our community strives to create self-directed, interdependent, empathetic, and creative thinkers with a growth mindset.



News From Room 5

Reading/Writing Workshop:

To start the year, we are reading different picture books together. We read them through once as a "movie read," which is uninterrupted. Then, we read them again with a focus to think about. Read Aloud also gives us the chance to practice our thinking about reading and sharing ideas.

Our focus this first chunk of school has been on setting up our Reader's and Writer's Workshop. We have looked at what each of these pieces of our day looks like, sounds like, and feels like. Discussions have been around possibilities for our Writer's Notebooks, what writers do in their notebooks, and I can say that we truly loved decorating them and making them our own. We will continue in the weeks to come, with our first unit of study: Personal Narratives. The emphasis for this first few weeks is to generate ideas for writing and how to build on them. If you have a chance in Early Bird over the next few weeks, ask to read some of your child's Writer's Notebook entries. We are focusing on writing stamina. . . being able to write, write, write!!

Just Right books continue as we become strong readers, and developing a quiet DEAR time where readers in our room are being "readers who think and use strategies as we read." Continue to encourage those Just Right books and be reading each night. Our logs will guide us into making reading goals and keeping track of them.

Math: Multiplication/Division is the unit of study we just finished. We worked with arrays, as these help us see the groups in multiplication better. It also helps us with finding the area of a rectangle. Your child should be skip counting or splitting the number apart. For example: $4 \times 7 =$ they might know $7 \times 3 = 21$ and add on one more 7, or they might say $7 \times 2 = 14$ and $14 + 14 = 28$. These are some strategies we have worked on at school. For $12 \times 6 =$ The kids might count 3 groups of 12—12, 24, 36 and then double that. $(12 \times 3) + (12 \times 3)$ or they might say I know that 10×6 is 60 and I just need 2 more 6s so that is $60 + 12 = 72$. We are not learning the traditional algorithm for double digit multiplication. Have your child show you their strategy and use their strategy, please. If you have a question on this, please talk with me. Use the multiplication cards to practice like flashcards! **It is really important that your child practices every night.** We'll be looking for fluency in 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's this quarter. Then, have your child work on 3's, 4's, 6's. We are also working on telling time to the minute and problems about elapsed time. **Always let me know if you have any questions on how to support your child.**

Science: The start of our new curriculum, KnowAtom, has gone really well as we have discussed and gone through The Scientific Method in our experiment last week on what heat does to molecules in different states of matter. We began this unit by learning about atoms and matter (see our Aluminum atom models in the hall). We are now moving into the Solar System and properties of some of the planets, while discussing gravity. Lots of excitement as we do science each day!

Who Am I As a Learner?
One of the areas of focus this year for our learners is "self-awareness." In short, this is encouraging students to begin to know what they need as learners to be successful. It may be different in each subject. Parts of this could be knowing we like to work alone in math to work through our strategies, but in writing it helps us to talk through our ideas with a partner before we write. It could mean we need the room quiet to read, but are ok with gentle voices during math workshop. This year, we'll be asking students to think about what they need as a learner, as we become more self-aware of our learning needs, which pushes us towards independence and success.



P.E.—We have P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please remind your child to wear tennis shoes. We have been doing some team building exercises to start the year. Our focus the last few weeks has been working on locomotor, balance, throwing and catching skills using bean bags.