

1st Quarter Parent Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year, where learning is an adventure and we are your child's guide. We are both super excited to be back at Cassell with your children. This year we are fortunate to have two teachers working together in Room 508. Mrs. Troglia or Mrs. T. as some of the students call her, will be co-teaching with me. This will be her third year working with this group of students. She is happy to be with them again and can't wait to see how much they will learn, achieve and grow over this year. I'm thrilled that Mrs. Troglia knows the majority of your children and has insight to their learning preferences.

Social Studies:

This year we will continue to navigate through Illinois Social Studies United States Region My World Interactive 4. This quarter we will be focusing on:

Chapter 1 Geography of the United States. We will be studying physical features of the country, its weather and resources, as well as the human activities affected by the geography of the nation

Chapter 2 Americans and Their History-Students will learn about how people today are impacted by the past.

Chapter 3 Government In the United States- Students will learn about the government of the United States and what makes it special and unique.

Chapter 4 The Nation's Economy- They will study how resources of an area or country are produced, delivered, and used.

We will also be discussing current events throughout the week as well as a few projects and activities.

Science:

We will use the curriculum of Mystery Science once again this year. In our first unit, Human Machine, Body, Sense and the Brain, students investigate structures and functions of the human body. Students explore how our bones and muscles are interconnected, how our eyes interact with light and impact our vision, and how our brain responds to stimuli in our environment. With all of these lessons with Mystery Science each student will be participating in an exploration which will entail a video, and discussion questions, a hands on activity, an anchor connection and In this lesson, students discover the mechanism by which their muscles control their bones to move their bodies. In the activity, Robot Finger, students construct a model of a human finger and observe how pulling on a string (a model for tendons) causes it to bend at the joints. a Unit Performance Tasks. At times students may need extra materials to complete the activity and we will provide this information in advance.

- Lesson 1 -Muscles and Skeleton. Why do biceps bulge
- Lesson 2- Light, Eyes and Vision. What do people who are blind see?
- Lesson 3- Structure and Function of eyes. How can some animals see in the dark?
- Lesson 4- Brain, Nerves and Information Processing. How does your brain control your body?

Reading:/Writing:

This year's reading and writing program will consist of several components. We will continue to utilize the ARC/IRLA program. The IRLA is a unified standard-based framework for student assessment, text leveling, curriculum, and instruction. The IRLA ensures that grade level instruction in reading is rigorous and that differentiated support meets the needs of all students in our class. Through extensive

reading, writing, research, and critical analysis, students develop knowledge and expertise in a variety of disciplines, preparing them to lead in a changing world. Novels will be used as a supplement to this program. This year we will begin with “Wonder”. We will use various resources to promote comprehension and fluency.

New to our program this year is a grammar workshop. This program prepares students with systemic lessons and effective grammar practice that will improve their ability to communicate both verbally and in writing. The students will also complete daily language reviews as a group. The class will also be asked to write journal entries 3-4 times per week.

Math:

The 4th grade math series is called, “Go Math”. These are the chapters we plan on covering this quarter:

- Chapter 1, Place Value, Addition, and Subtraction to One Million
- Chapter 2, Multiply by 1-Digit Numbers

We would like you to work on multiplication tables with your child for about 15 minutes/night 5 days a week. Since we were out of the classroom for about a year, we have noticed that we need to build those skills.

Classroom Behaviors:

Students will be given 3 verbal warnings throughout the day, if necessary. If the behavior continues then a call or email to the parents will be made/sent to discuss the student’s behaviors.

Communication:

As you know communication between home and school is extremely vital. Please email us at jmberger@cps.edu or jtroggia@cps.edu if you have any questions, concerns or you feel we need to know anything else pertaining to your child.

Grading:

Assessments: 50% of students grade

Homework and Participation: 40% of students grade

Classroom assignments: 10 % of students grade

Sincerely your tour guides,

Ms. Jackie Berger

Mrs. Julie Troglia