

Concord Road Elementary School

January 2017 Newsletter

***Investigations* Implementation**

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas."

-Albert Einstein

We have been very excited to implement newly revised *Investigations 3* resources this year! While the *Investigations* program is not new to Concord Road, the revised edition has now been completely aligned to the Common Core mathematics standards and incorporates a new digital element to engage students in unique and inviting ways. The new *Investigations* continues to reflect our vision of mathematics instruction by building strong content knowledge and integrating important critical competencies.

The revised curriculum has been designed to meet six specific goals through the implementation of eight units of study in each grade across the school year. It:

1. supports students in making sense of mathematics and in learning that they can be mathematical thinkers
2. focuses on the development of computational fluency with whole numbers
3. provides substantive work in rational numbers, geometry, measurement, data, and early algebra and emphasizes the connections among them;
4. emphasizes reasoning about mathematical ideas;
5. communicates mathematics content and pedagogy to teachers;
6. differentiates for a wide range of learners.

In the classroom, each math session incorporates some combination of five elements: an activity where mathematical ideas are introduced and investigated, a discussion where students share their thinking and analyze strategies, a math workshop where students choose from and complete a set of learning activities, an assessment activity which illuminates progress towards specific benchmarks and a session follow-up which allows for review and practice. Students have additional opportunities for review and practice during regular Ten-Minute Math activities and classroom routines which are designed for students to deepen and consolidate their understandings.

To support students as developing mathematicians, the curriculum incorporates the use of physical manipulatives, teacher presentations, cards and card decks and digital math tools. *Realize*, the new digital platform that accompanies the physical resources of the program, offers targeted games for students to work with and additional problem-solving opportunities. On a regular basis, children complete student activity book pages and daily practice pages. Homework pages are designed to reinforce classroom learning and provide a snapshot of the work students are doing in the classroom.

We are very proud of the rich mathematical vocabulary we have been recently hearing in classrooms, the unique and varied problem-solving strategies students are using and the commitment of our teachers to move students towards greater efficiency in their use of those strategies. We have delighted in seeing the differentiated mathematics work that has been happening within classrooms and particularly impressed by the intensity with which children have been approaching the games and discussions.

Hopefully you have already been enjoying regular opportunities at home to speak with your child about the daily mathematics work that is happening in the classroom. Please be on the lookout for important unit of study updates on the teacher pages of the Concord Road website and for family letters that are designed to inform you of unit objectives and learning activities. Thank you for your ongoing partnership to support our young mathematicians!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bobcat Chat

- A message from our Concord Road PPLT administrators, teachers and parents regarding dismissal: If your child is picked up at the end of the day, please be sure that you turn off your engine before exiting your vehicle. To ensure student safety, reduce the environmental impact of emissions and maintain compliance with the law, cars may not be left idling.
- Should your child become ill, please remember that s/he must be fever free for a full 24 hours before returning back to school. This will enable your child to be at his/her best for learning and keep our school healthy. Children should not be sent to school sick. If there is evidence of vomiting, significant sore throat or fever, please be sure to keep them home.
- The first Friday of each month is a Bobcat Spirit Day! We encourage you to send your child to school wearing Ardsley spirit attire or blue and gold.

Bobcat Nook Book



Take a look at the books in the book nook!

Adventure and Mystery:

Zoe's Jungle written and illustrated by Bethanie Deeney Murguia

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-55869-3

Sisters Addie and Zoe have a wild, imaginative adventure during their precious last four minutes at the park. Playful pen-and-ink with watercolor illustrations.

(4-8)

Animals:

The Pandas and Their Chopsticks: And Other Animal Stories written and illustrated by Demi

(Wisdom Tales, \$16.95)

978-1-937786-16-8

Ten short stories show the importance of sharing, humility, and other principles to live by. Colorful mixed media illustrations.(6-9)

Fantasy:

Oliver and the Seawigs by Philip Reeve, illustrated by Sarah McIntyre

(Random House Children's Books, \$12.99) 978-0-385-38788-0

When Oliver's parents disappear on a roaming island, he takes up a friendship with a mermaid on an island of his own. Humorous illustrations.

(6-9)

Fairy and Folk Tales:

Two Parrots written and illustrated by Rashin, inspired by a tale from Rumi

(NorthSouth Books, \$17.95)

978-0-7358-4171-0

A clever parrot conspires with a friend to win his freedom from a Persian merchant. Vibrantly colored acrylic paintings on handmade paper.

(5-8)

Historical Fiction:

Strongheart: The World's First Movie Star Dog written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9448-0

A German Shepherd is retrained to star in movies. Dramatic period watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations.

(6-9)

Poetry:

Outside the Box: A Book of Poems by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Diane Goode
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99)

978-1-4169-8005-6

Over 100 whimsical poems with varied styles, topics, and emotional tones speak to children's concerns, wishes, and hopes. Playful typographical and sketchy ink illustrations.

(7-11)

Biography and Memoir:

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Lee & Low, \$18.95)

978-1-60060-898-8

Melba Doretta Liston, an African American child prodigy, overcame the challenges faced by women and people of color of her era to share her trailblazing jazz. Lively oil paintings and insightful back matter.

(6-10)

Recommended by the Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College of Education

<https://www.bankstreet.edu/center-childrens-literature/childrens-book-committee/best-books-year/2015-edition/>