

"To foster, inspire, and champion learning for all."

What is Guided Reading?

This year, our teachers have expanded their repertoire of small group instruction with the addition of guided reading. The main purpose of guided reading is to help students move up reading levels by giving students access to harder texts with carefully planned support by the teacher. During guided reading, a small group of students is grouped together at the same reading level, and they work with the teacher to read a text that is one level above their independent reading level (this is known as the instructional level). The teacher first provides a brief book introduction and a focus for reading, then students read the text while the teacher carefully listens in and provides support as students read, and finally the students discuss the text. The small group usually concludes with either targeted word work or writing about reading. Our students and teachers have found guided reading to be productive and impactful.

What do our students think about guided reading?

"I just like reading this year!"

"We take turns reading with the teacher. We learned, if you read a lot, you become a better reader. I like reading."

"I like reading in my head when the others are reading aloud. I learned to spell new words and talk about books."

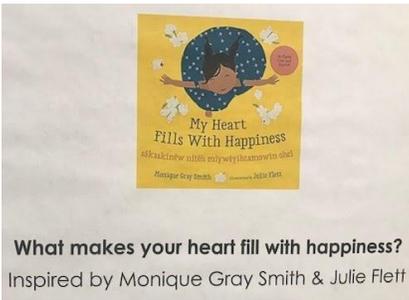


During small group instruction, we maintain our health and safety protocols: students and teachers socially distance and meet for less than 15 minutes.

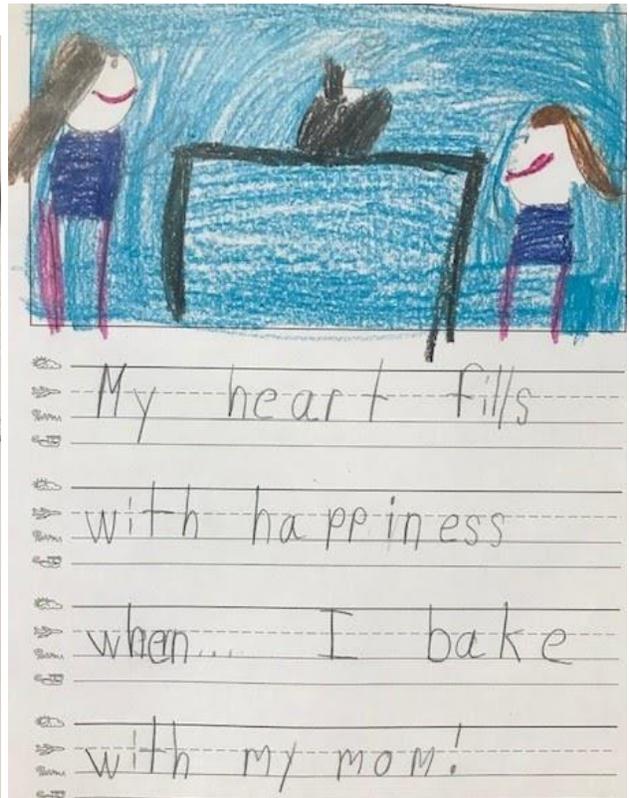
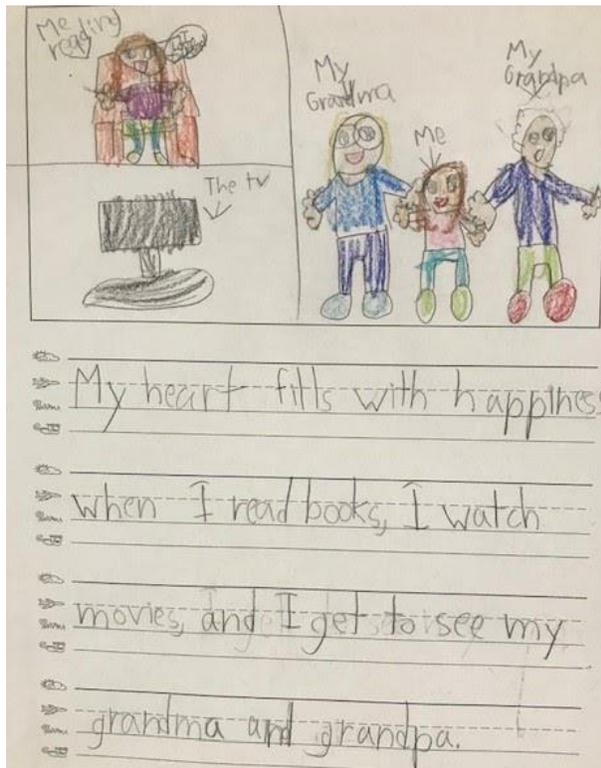
How can you support your growing reader at home?

- Make time for reading every day. The amount of time a child spends reading “just right” books directly impacts reading growth.
- Use the age of the main characters as a barometer for age appropriateness of books; most books have characters that are the approximate age of their intended readers.
- Reading aloud to children benefits not just younger readers, but older readers as well. Books are a wonderful way to open up discussions and conversations about new topics and issues.

CWC Spotlight: How one teacher at Washington Elementary School taught students about Native American History Month



One of our Washington teachers wanted to focus on contributions by Indigenous people and Native American life and culture today. The class read several books by Indigenous authors (favorites were *Thunder Boy Jr* and *Fry Bread*). They also read an article about Susan Shown Harjo on *Pebble Go* and learned about the Museum of the American Indian. For this project, they read *My Heart Fills with Happiness*, which is in Cree and English, and then added their own pages to the book answering the question, "What makes your heart fill with happiness?" (see photo). It started some good conversations around thankfulness but from the perspective of an Indigenous author and Illustrator.



February:
Black History Month

Click [here](#) to learn more about the 400 years of history, achievements and contributions by African Americans.

March:
Women's History Month

Click [here](#) to learn more about the contributions that women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

[K-5 Winter Curriculum Overview](#)

Click [here](#) to learn more about what is being taught in our K-5 classrooms this winter. You can find the main goals of each of our units, as well as specific ways to support learning at home.

Home-School Partnership: Resources to Support Families

Remote Instruction Resources

If your child is accessing remote learning due to quarantining or testing positive for COVID, they will be using Google Meet to live stream into the classroom and Seesaw to access learning activities and resources. Teachers will use Seesaw to capture students' learning and communicate about student progress and needs. To learn more about Seesaw, click [here](#).

- [How to sign into a district Chromebook](#)
- [CWC Family Technology Support](#)

Investigations Math Resources

Our math program, Investigations, has an online learning management system - Savvas Realize - that contains math digital resources (etext), online tools, online games and more. Please view these [slides](#) for information on how to login to the platform at home, as well as simple ways to support your child's mathematical development at home. You will find information about at-home games, homework help, online games, Math Words and Ideas, online math tools, and using math at home.

Community Connections: *Workshops for Families*

Please join our new family speaker series to learn specific strategies to support your child at home!

ELA & Math Academic Showcases: Join our ELA & Math Committee Teachers for virtual evening workshops (7-8 pm) that will focus on equipping families with concrete strategies to support children at home.

Teaming Together to Talk Inclusion: The New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE) will provide our community with a five-part series between February-June. The series is designed to help create a shared understanding with families regarding community, equity, and inclusion. Each virtual evening workshop (7-8pm) will include a half hour presentation, followed by a half hour question and answer session.

Save the Dates: Individual links to the virtual workshops are forthcoming.

- ***2/10 Parenting Kids with Anxiety - Marci Wolff Ober, LMFT (Event details can be found [here](#).)***
- ***2/17: Inclusive Mindset (NJCIE)***
- ***3/10: High Quality Instruction for All students (NJCIE)***
- ***3/23 Families as Math Partners (Academic Showcase)***
- ***3/31 Families as Reading Partners (Academic Showcase)***
- ***April-June NJCIE workshop dates are to be determined. Topics: Positive Behavior, Models of Support and Intervention, Moving Forward Together for a More Inclusive Future***

Accessing Seesaw At Home

- Students will use the **Seesaw Class App** (or **app.seesaw.me**) for remote learning
- Students will use the **Sign in with Google option** using his/her **CWC Google username and password** to sign in ([Student Seesaw Login](#))
- Students will be able to **engage with all of Seesaw's learning tools**, including activities, creative tools, and announcements, while also **protecting their privacy**. Students will not be able to see each other's work or log in as a different student.

LinkIt! Form B

Our students in grades 3-5 will be taking our mid-year benchmark in ELA and Math this month. All of our LinkIt! Assessments measure progress towards end of year grade level standards. The midyear assessment helps us monitor progress by giving us information on how students are performing so far, paying close attention to the standards we have already covered in our instruction. The ELA Form B results will be visible to families in the student portal by 1/18, and the Math Form B results will be posted by 1/25. For questions about student results, please reach out to your classroom teacher(s). For directions on how to access the LinkIt! Student Portal, click [here](#). To learn more about LinkIt! Benchmark assessments, you can view our [webinar](#).