

January Newsletter

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Important Information:

It is that time again - it is time for students to take the annual language proficiency assessment. Also known as **ACCESS for ELLs**, this assessment is an English language proficiency test that measures students' academic English language skills. Your child will be assessed on the four language domains: reading, writing, speaking, and listening in English.

The scores from ACCESS, which will be shared in late May/early June, help teachers track your child's progress in learning academic English as well as help them decide how best to teach your child.

Your child does not need to study for this test (after all, they have been preparing all year in their ELD and homeroom classes!), but it is recommended that they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy, filling breakfast on the days of the assessment.

Source: <https://wida.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/resource/ACCESS-Parent-Handout-English.pdf>

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners will finish up unit 6, which focuses on **Native Americans** and move into unit 7, which focuses on **Kings and Queens**. They will:

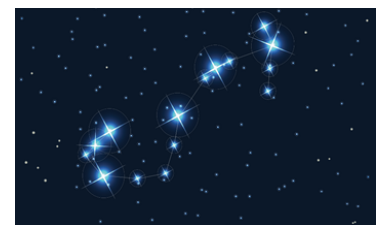
- describe and discuss kings, queens, and royal traditions
- compare and contrast everyday objects and royal objects
- recognize the difference between words that sound alike but have different meanings
- produce and expand complete sentences
- retell stories



First Grade

The students in first grade will begin unit 6, which focuses on **Astronomy**. They will learn the following language skills:

- categorize items as being in outer space or not in outer space
- add prepositional phrases to describe location
- record and discuss observations and facts about daytime
- recognize and use verb tense to convey time
- compare and contrast literary and informational texts



Second Grade

Second graders will finish up unit 6, focusing on **Cycles in Nature** and then will move to a research unit titled “**Up, Up, and Away: the Age of Aviation**”. They will work on the following skills:

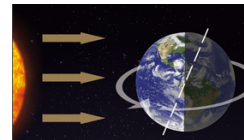
- listen to and learn stories of early aviators
- study the science of flight, including the physics concept of lift
- research the social impacts of the world of flight
- explore key figures from the world of aviation



Third Grade

Third graders will wrap up unit 5, which focuses on **Light and Sound**, and will jump to unit 7, **Astronomy**. They will:

- share ideas and information about how Earth, the sun, and the moon move in space
- identify nouns and noun phrases and use possessive nouns while speaking and writing
- demonstrate comprehension of an informational text by labeling diagrams
- evaluate the language an author uses to present an idea



Fourth Grade

Fourth graders will finish the poetry unit this month. They are enjoying learning about figurative language, rhythm, and rhyme.

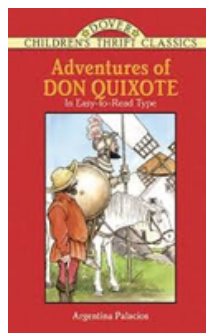
We will continue building our knowledge of **prefixes and root words** so that students can read and interpret unfamiliar words.



Later in January, we will begin the **Eureka: The Student Inventor** unit. During this, students will read a range of informational texts about inventors, inventions, and the process of creation.

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders will continue reading and analyzing **The Adventures of Don Quixote** during the month of January. Focusing on plot, characters, and literary elements, students will grow their literary analysis skills.



Students will work on these skills:

- compare & contrast
- subject-verb agreement
- punctuation
- root words, prefixes, & suffixes