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* 12/18 – Early Release (1:15)

# Curriculum News

**Literacy:** Our Guided Reading groups are up and running and going well! Students will continue to work on developing independence during Literacy centers. This week we will be focusing on the five finger rule for reading fiction books. This has the students answer questions about the reading such as; who are the characters, what the setting is, what is the problem of the story, the main details, and how the story end. This is a great way to help the students to work on their comprehension skills in reading. While reading with your students at home encourage them to use the five finger rule.

**Phonics:** In our Word Work Center this week we will be working on CVC words. This allows students to work on spelling simple words phonetically drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.

**Sight Words:** I, at, is, to like, me, the, it, am, and, went, a, come, in, here, go, see, my, you, look, up, said, we, on, can, play, an, got, for, with, one, his, she, have, no. **New Words: will, he, get, because. Keep practicing the words we have. Your child needs to be able to write and read these words “in a snap”! The students feel so proud when they accomplish these words!**

**Writing:** We are working on making the students more confident in their writing and to enjoy writing. This week we are writing 3 page books about what the students did over Winter Break. We will work on adding details in our sentences as we are writingWe will continue to work hard on “Being a Smartie Speller” while we write. Our Kindergartners are really working hard on applying their letter/sound knowledge and sight words to the writing of words and sentences.

**Math:** In Math class we will be practicing counting by ones and tens using a hundreds chart. Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on Shapes in Math class. This week we are learning about 2D shapes. We will be learning about what defines a 2D shape, that they have vertices and sides. We will be focusing on the 2D shapes of circle, square, rectangle, hexagon, triangle, rhombus, and trapezoid. During centers this week, students will be working on 2D shapes. We will continue working in small groups during centers, students will practice staying on task, using a quiet voice, and working cooperatively with others.

**Social Studies :** This week we will have free centers during Social Studies to help get the students back into the routine of school. This will allow the students to play with their friends and build community.

# Important Dates

* 1/4 – Back to School
* 1/11 – Scarlett’s Birthday
* 1/15 – Early Release (1:15)
* 1/18 – No School
* Please remember to check the GREEN ALLIGATOR folder daily and return it to school. Remove anything in the “Keep at Home” side and check the “Return to School” side for important notes/info.
* I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break! I cannot wait to see all the students!
* We are half way through the school year already! The students are having a great time in Kindergarten and are learning a lot. Mrs. Bajerski and I are working hard to help the students have fun and accomplish our academic goals. Like all Kindergarten classes we have our good days and we have our rough days but we all keep coming back because we love learning. We are looking forward to the next semester ahead and what it has instore for us!
* January homework was sent home on Monday in the green alligator folder. Homework is sent home at the beginning of the month. It is optional to do. It reviews all the concepts that we are working on in class. Keep the packet at home until it is completed and send it back to school at the end of the month.
* We are finished mClass testing the students to find out where the students are in reading for the middle of the year. At this point in the year students should be on a C reading level and a D reading level by the end of the year. I sent home the students reading levels with their report cards. I also sent home reading strategies and sight words. In the homework packets I am sending home a few different reading comprehension passages to work on.
* If you are interested in ordering Scholastic books visit [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com), our “book club” class code is: N8ZZF.

# Reminders/Further Information

Monday: Science

Tuesday: Readers Theater

Wednesday: Math

Thursday: Technology

Friday: Media

# Specials

Ms. Dodson’s Classroom Newsletter

**Have a wonderful week!**

Ms. Dodson

**ddodson@wcpss.net**

### Alston Ridge Elementary

Cary, NC

Week of 1/4/16 – 1/8/16

Kindergarten is a Hoot!

