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# Blount's Busy Bee Bulletin

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Gladstone Elementary

## Back-to-School Night Notes

Here is a summary of where I left off at Back-to-School Night last week. :)

Language Arts:

\*Students will be bringing home their Close Reading Text for home reading assignments from time to time.

\*Accelerated Reader: Most students need to take an average of two quizzes per week. Your child may want to read the first book on Monday and Tuesday and quiz on Wednesday. Read the second book on Wednesday and Thursday and take a quiz on Friday. Students should be reading picture books at least four times and chapter books should be reviewed at the end of each chapter as s/he reads the book. Please review the AR page of notes in your Parent Handbook so that you fully understand how AR works! :)

\*Writing: Writing is a process and it takes students multiple opportunities to master a skill. We'll be using mentor sentences and monitoring our progress with WIGS (Wildly Important Goals). A LOT of our writing will be done in Google Classroom and students MAY be asked to complete some assignments at home.

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### Special points of Interest:

- Back-to-School Notes
- Parents' Corner
- Curriculum Snapshot
- Reminders
- Newsletter Raffle



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## Back-to-School Night Notes

\*Writing: Google Classroom allows for immediate feedback and can be accessed almost anywhere. It would be very helpful if you encourage your child to speak in complete sentences as s/he answers questions and carries on conversations at home. This will eventually become a welcome habit and help your child's writing skills. :)

\*Math: Assigned math homework is due the NEXT DAY. Please review it and initial/sign your child's work. Students only do the front side. The back side will occasionally be used as a quiz/assessment. Your child should keep his/her book at home in a safe place. Do NOT have your child go ahead in the Practice Book. Two videos for each math lesson can be accessed on Canvas by clicking on the math link. We will have weekly fluency quizzes each week. The same quiz will be given each week. As students master the addition/subtraction quiz, they will work on decreasing the amount of time it takes to complete it. Reflex Math should be done to the "Green Light" for the most effective memory retention of facts and to receive full credit.

**Students will be filling out part of the assignment sheet at school most of the time. The assignment sheet needs to be kept in your child's Bee Binder!**

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## Parent's Corner

From time to time, I will bring you articles and ideas from Love and Logic authors, Dr. Charles Fay, Jim Fay (father), and Foster Cline. Love and Logic provides parents respectful and strategic strategies to help their children become independent, resourceful, and smart-thinking adults that can adapt to our ever-changing world. They have many online resources and great books about children of all ages. I have copies of one of their books that is available for check-out. You can also access their articles on Facebook as well. Here are some strategies to help your child overcome failure.

- **Focus on the strain rather than the brains.**  
Instead of praising, "You are so bright," notice their successes and ask, "How did you do that?"
- **Help them blame their success on effort and perseverance.**  
Most kids will respond to "How did you do that?" with "I don't know." When this happens, ask a question: "Did you work hard or did you keep trying?"

Both options embedded in this question point directly to strains not brains.

- **Avoid placing them on a pedestal.**  
Capable kids often get so much positive feedback about their successes they begin to fear taking risks. It's as if they think, "If I try something challenging, I might not live up to what everybody thinks about me. I'd better take the easier route."
- **Show them that failure is not final...it's informative.**  
Many children develop a perfectionistic orientation by watching their rather perfectionistic parents. Sadly, doing so leaves many kids fearful of taking healthy academic risks.

Give your kids...and yourself...a gift. Do your best to laugh about your blunders, while allowing your children to hear you say, "I sure learned a lot from that!"

- **Love them unconditionally.**  
When our kids know that we love them...not what they do...they feel safe to make the mistakes required to become truly exceptional people.
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# Math

The first chapter is a "doozy" and we will continue our hard work. We do love math! :)

Our first lesson in Chapter 1 reteaches/reviews rounding/estimating to the nearest ten/hundred. When we round, we want to find an estimate. It's *about* how many and not an exact answer. We know that the digit in the ones and/or tens place must be a zero. Many of the skills that we will learn in math have a process with steps to help us remember and master the skills. There is a great rounding chart on our class webpage that shows the steps we used in class. We'll also be reviewing expanded form and the *break apart strategy* we learned in second grade.

I mentioned it last week, but I do not collect homework unless students take the quiz on the back. In the morning, I do take note of students that have/have not completed it. We will review the problems (although not always all of them) before we start our lesson. Our daily math lesson is the same. I normally do not collect/grade these pages as they are practice and I want the children to use these pages as a model/guide when completing homework. Each student is responsible for correcting work as we do it together on the board or working together in groups.

## Reminders:

\*I encourage you and your child to view the optional videos (Canvas) that are an integral part of your child's daily math homework.

\*Your child should be doing *Reflex Math* as assigned. Students need to play the game until they read the green light.

**Most lessons are done whole group and will not be collected or graded. Your child will bring them home so that you know how it was taught in class.**

# Language Arts

We are learning to read syllable parts. This is important as it will help your child decode multiple syllabic words. This will, in turn, positively impact fluency and comprehension. The same chart we are using in class can be found in your child's Bee Binder (two-sided orange page).

We officially began our Accelerated Reader program this week. Students received their ZPD page with their reading range and projected points for the trimester. We made our first visit to Gladstone's library and also picked out books from our classroom library, too. The students' first goal is to get to 9% by this Friday (Sept. 3).

Reading and analyzing mentor sentences is a great way to start writing awesome sentences ourselves. Each week we will analyze sentences by looking at the different parts, rewriting them, and then writing an exemplary sentence that is similar to the mentor's.

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## Reminders!

- We are working toward collecting PTA memberships so that our class has 100% participation.
- September 9: Picture Day
- October 1: Pride Stride Fun Run
- October 1: KidsGan & Spirit Day (Mismatched Fun Run)
- October 6 & 7: Minimum Days for parent conferences with dismissal at 12:25.
- October 8: Pupil Free Day
- October 26: Picture Make-Up Day
- October 29: Pupil Free Day
- November 11: Veteran's Day
- November 12: Trimester 1 Ends
- November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break



Scan this QR code to visit our website. There's lots of information about our class and resources to support you and your child.

## August Birthdays



Matthew	10
Hailey	28
Cliffton	30

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Newsletter Raffle: Week of August 30, 2021

\*Turn in this form on/before Friday, September 10, 2021

\*Write at least three sentences explaining what you learned this week.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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