

# Dolphin Pod Post

Dr. Charles R Drew Elementary School

Happy December Families! Look how far we've come. We'd like to take a moment to thank each and everyone of you for all you've done to support our program. We hope you are all having a wonderful holiday season so far and we wish you all happiness and health during this special time of year.

*Love, Ms. Arnold, Miss Moradel & Ms Magid*

In school we will be learning about...

## Reading

In this unit, your child will explore how characters differ in various ways, from the way they look to the way they act. For example, in the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare," students discover that the tortoise is patient and hardworking while the hare is boastful. Your child will also discover how characters in realistic fiction differ from one another just as people in real life are not all the same. Your child will think about how he is like and different from the characters he reads about. The selections include a variety of genres, including animal fantasy, fables, poems, and realistic fiction.

## Math

During the next few weeks, our math class will continue learning about length and height as students compare the length of objects with a linking cube stick. Using a unit of measure allows students to be more precise when telling how long or short an object is; for example, "My scissors are as long as seven cubes."

## Social Studies

In social studies we are learning about Holidays Around the World. We are learning about foods, traditions and cultures from diverse backgrounds. We are tying in our social emotional lessons in this unit as well by learning about diversity, acceptance and embracing ourselves and those around us. We will be reading powerful books like All Are Welcome Here by Alexandra Penfold and Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o.

## Upcoming Dates

7 Early Release  
International Night  
9 New to Drew  
14 - 20 PE Winter  
Wonderland  
14 College Day  
21 Interims  
Distributed  
23  
Non-Instructional  
Day  
26 - 30 Holiday,  
Winter Break  
Jan 1 Back to  
School

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## Every Story Has Characters

In this unit, we'll read fables and other genres of fiction featuring a variety of characters, and think in depth about the question "How are people different?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about characters, to build on the skills and concepts your child is learning in school. I know exploring this topic together will be fun for both of you!

### Topic Connection

#### Character Twenty Questions

Play the game "Character Twenty Questions" with your child, or with your whole family. Unlike the traditional game, players must choose only characters, not places or things. Invite your child to think of a favorite character from a book, movie, TV show, etc. The character can be real, fictional, or fantastical, but your child should not say who it is aloud. Next, ask your child yes/no questions about the character, such as "Is he or she an animal?" "Is the character from a book?" Keep asking until you guess who the character is. Then switch roles so that you think of the character and your child asks questions.

### Vocabulary Connection

#### Behaviors in Action

Your child is learning new words associated with characters' actions or how they behave, such as **crawled, roared, laughed, cried, walked, raced, argued, growled, whispered, grumbled, and barked**. Review the meaning of these words with your child by acting them out together. Discuss where you've seen these actions before, both in stories and in real life. As you go about your daily activities—playing at the park, shopping at the market, visiting the library—encourage your child to keep on the lookout for these behaviors in action.

### Comprehension Connection

#### Compare-a-Character

Your child will be reading a variety of well-known stories featuring a range of characters, from the angry bears in "Goldilocks" to the hardworking and underappreciated Little Red Hen. Making connections between self and characters helps readers better understand characters and their actions, which supports overall comprehension. Encourage your child to consider which of the characters she or he is most like, and why. Divide a sheet of paper in half. Label one side with the character's name and your child's name on the other. Then help them write down or draw the similarities.

### Phonics Connections

#### I Spy a Sound

In this unit, your child is learning and practicing the /s/ sound, as in *snake, sing, and soup* and the /t/ sound, as in *turtle, toes, and tomato*. Choose one of the two letter sounds, or both, for an extra challenge, and play I Spy a Sound by identifying words you hear during the day that begin with that sound.

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## EUREKA MATH™ TIPS FOR PARENTS

GRADE K | MODULE 3 | TOPIC B | LESSONS 4–7

### KEY CONCEPT OVERVIEW

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During the next few days, our math class will continue learning about length and height as students compare the length of objects with a **linking cube stick**. Using a unit of measure allows students to be more precise when telling how long or short an object is; for example, “My scissors are as long as seven cubes.”

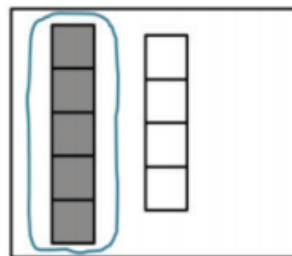
You can expect to see homework that asks your child to do the following:

- Find the linking cube stick that is longer, shorter, or the same length as a given object.
- Color linking cube sticks to show the length of an object.

### SAMPLE PROBLEM (From Lesson 5)

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Circle the longer stick.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

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- Encourage your child to say the pattern of *1 more* while pretending to walk up a staircase by marching in place: “One—1 more is 2. Two—1 more is 3. Three—1 more is 4.” When your child is comfortable with 1 more, challenge him to reverse the pattern by pretending to walk down the stairs while saying the pattern in reverse: “Ten—1 less is 9. Nine—1 less is 8.”
- Encourage your child to practice counting the **Say Ten** way: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Ten 1, Ten 2, Ten 3 ... up to Ten 9. Make it fun by inviting your child to count in a funny voice, such as that of an angry bear or a scared mouse.

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**Say Ten counting:** An East Asian method of counting that reinforces place value understanding by asking students to break two-digit numbers into tens and ones. In Grade 1, Say Ten counting extends to three-digit numbers up to 120.

eighteen	1 ten 8
forty-eight	4 tens 8
one hundred eighteen	11 tens 8 1 hundred 1 ten 8

## MODELS

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**Linking Cube Stick:** A stick of 1 to 10 interlocking cubes, with a color change after the fifth cube.

