

## Kindergarten Word Study

Longfellow is launching the Teachers College Phonics Units of Study in kindergarten this year. The units are aligned to our units in both reading and writing workshop, enabling students to apply and transfer learning throughout the day. The curriculum is research-based, developmentally appropriate, and reflect our state standards for foundational skills.

Below is a photo of Mabel who is our class mascot for the work with phonics this year. Students will develop concepts and strategies using singing, read alouds, pretending, inventing, writing, spelling and games.



The concepts and skills focused on include Concepts About Print, Phonological Awareness, Letter Knowledge, Word Knowledge/Word Solving, Letter/Sound Relationships, and High-Frequency Words during five units of study. Each unit is described below:

### Unit 1 – Making Friends with Letters

Children are immersed in letters and sounds, rhyme and word play using their own names, as well as the names of classmates. Students will also be learning the structures and routines for phonics work in whole class, small group, and partner work.

### Unit 2 – Word Scientists

Letter knowledge continues to grow as letter-sound relationships are developed. Students are introduced to high frequency words (words we read and write a lot e.g., *the, on, a, is, I*). Using an alphabet chart as a tool, to build letter knowledge will be introduced. Games, songs, and poems will continue to build phonemic awareness and early reading concepts.

### Unit 3 – Word-Part Power

The class word wall will grow from holding student names to more high frequency words. Students will also be instructed in what is called word-part power (e.g., knowing the word *at*, can help you learn *hat*).

### Unit 4 – Vowel Power

A new super power is introduced – vowel power! More high frequency words are added that support the work with short vowel sounds and words.

### Unit 5 – Playing with Phonics

The last unit introduces students to being flexible with sounds in words by being whimsical and experimental as they have fun with sound blends (e.g., *fl, tr, sm, sp*). Students are also challenged to tackle longer words using what they know, and transferring concepts and skills strategically. There is a phonics project opportunity for each student to close the school year.