

Parent and Friends:

K-3 Our Kindergartners have completed the basic vocabulary for our calendar and weather routine and are ready to catch up to the other grades in their practice of "me gusta," or, expressing things that we like. We're working towards learning the vocabulary to sing a Sr. Wooly song, including some foods (good, and disgusting, both, because nothing beats disgusting food when it comes to drawing the attention of a second grader). I'm doing a slow picture talk with them in preparation for the music video, which means that I describe certain pictures and ask questions about them. Kids learn vocabulary and grammar structures in context this way, and it builds excitement for the video to come.

4-5 We have been reading Brandon Brown Wants a Dog (*Brandon Brown quiere un perro*) and learning to talk about pets. Next week, in particular, we'll be looking at the importance of Ciclovia in Colombia, as I integrate a discussion of culture with vocabulary from the novel and students' interests. Your kids have downloaded the Quizlet app onto their classroom iPads and have been practicing the pertinent vocabulary. If they have access to a computer or other device at home, they are always welcome to study, either for fun or additional practice. They should know how to sign in, but if there's ever a problem, shoot me an e-mail.

6-8: We completed our unit on "¿Puedo ir al baño?" and have started another Sr. Wooly song, "Guapo." This song focuses on physical descriptions and changing sentences from first to third person perspectives. We had kind of a fun lesson with Plickers cards, which includes an app on my phone that reads particular shapes (like QR codes) and allows students to vote for particular things--like what color hair they have or if they have braces or not. This kind of lesson gives kids an opportunity to make learning Spanish personal for them, gives them practice with listening and reading to the Spanish, and allows them a way to produce an answer without an unrealistic expectation of their Spanish output (remembering that it takes many, many hours for students to acquire a second language--it's a slow process). When we complete this unit, we'll be reading a new graphic novel together, "*La Casa de la dentista*," which follows a favorite Sr. Wooly video. Look for more details about this in next month's newsletter. I'm really excited about this!