**Dr. Seuss Fun Facts**

**Monday** - Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! One of the world’s most famous and beloved children’s authors, Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Schools, libraries, and organizations across the country sponsor activities and book readings on March 2 in his memory. Every morning this week we will hear fun facts about Dr. Seuss and his books.

**Monday**: To his friends and family he was known as ‘Ted.’ His middle name ‘Seuss’ was his mother’s maiden name. Ted’s mother was his biggest fan and supporter. She encouraged him to write and draw. They were his greatest passions in life, but he didn’t believe he could make a living doing them and his high school art teacher advised him to find a career other than art. Ted Geisel never gave up on his dreams, but it took him many years to become the famous ‘Dr. Seuss.’

**Tuesday**: Ted Geisel continued to write and draw through high school and his college years, finding odd jobs at magazines and newspapers. In 1927 he sold a cartoon to *Judge* magazine and became a writer and cartoonist for them. He made $75 a week, but sometimes he was paid in cases of shaving cream and nail clippers. He wanted his cartoon features to seem more professional, so he signed them ‘Dr. Theophrastus Seuss.’ He wanted to save his real name for a famous novel he was going to write someday.

**Wednesday**:

“When I leave home to walk to school,

Dad always says to me,

“Marco, keep your eyelids up

And see what you can see.”

Dr. Seuss wrote his first children’s book in 1936, *And to think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street*one summer afternoon on a ship returning from a European vacation. He wrote words to match the beat of the boat’s engines; it was a story about a boy’s journey home from school. The book sold for $1 a copy and sold over 10,000 copies. Officially making Dr. Seuss a children’s author.

**Thursday**:

“I know it is wet

And the sun is not sunny.

But we can have

Lots of good fun that is funny!”

Dr. Seuss wrote *The Cat in the Hat* after reading an article in a magazine that said books that taught kids to read were boring. He approached his publishers about it and they handed him a list of 223 easy-to-read words. He said the book happened because ‘cat’ and ‘hat’ were the first two words on the list that rhymed.

Speaking of hats, Dr. Seuss was an avid collector of hats. He wrote a book titled, *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*. Later this month you can view his private hat and art collection at an art gallery in Midlothian, Virginia.

Another fun fact:

Dr. Seuss loved a challenge. His editor bet him $50 that he could not write a book using just fifty different words.

“I would not like them here or there.

I would not like them anywhere.

I do not like

green eggs and ham.

I do not like them,

Sam-I-am.”

Dr. Seuss proved to his editor and the world that he could when he published one of his most famous books, *Green Eggs and Ham.*

**Friday**: Dr. Seuss attended Dartmouth College and Oxford University, but he didn’t graduate from either. In 1956 he received an honorary doctorate degree, making his title official.

Dr. Seuss was not afraid to have fun or be silly. He referred to himself and other adults as “obsolete children.” Many of his characters and animals are from his wild imagination and have crazy mixed up names, but Dr. Seuss was also very alert of the world around him and he built social and political messages into his stories for future generations, such as *The Lorax,* which spoke of caring for the environment.

Dr. Seuss was a pioneer in making children’s literature fun. Remember his words,

“The more that you READ,

the more things you will KNOW.

The more that you LEARN,

the more places you’ll GO.”

Students - please remind your parents and join us in the (School Name) Library on (Date & Time) where we will celebrate all things Seuss!