

September 22, 2017

Dear Families,

Happy fall! Here's what happened in First grade this week!

**Language Arts:**

- We finished unit 1 of Foundations-We will begin unit 2 on Monday
- We continued to learn about good reading habits. So far we have learned:
  - Always begin with a sneak peak
  - Make predictions about what you learned during the sneak peak
  - Check your predictions as you read the book
  - Do something at the end
    - Reread
    - Find your favorite page and read it in your best story-telling voice
    - Retell the story using a finger for each detail
  - Read more and more
  - Set goals
  - Scoop up words in phrases
- We practiced partner reading. We learned:
  - To work together as a team
  - To build good habits together
  - To read together whether it be choral reading, echo reading or see-saw reading
  - To give each other friendly reminders
- In Writing Workshop we continue to learn about choosing interesting topics and zooming in on small moments
- We practiced letter formation, using uppercase letters at the beginning of sentences and leaving spaces between words

**Math:**

- We solved story problems using our number racks and white boards.
- We practiced telling our strategy first then giving the answer when solving all math problems
- We completed the mid-unit checkpoint for unit 1
- Three new workplace activities were introduced-Flip and Write, Ten and More and Which Coin Will Win?
- The "teens" family was introduced during Number Corner
- We continue to collect pennies and nickels and add them to our collection graph.
- The terms greater than, less than, equal to, most and least were introduced during Number Corner
- We practiced using the terms to compare the weekly totals on our collection graph
- We counted by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's

**Science:**

- We discussed what a Scientist is
- Each student carefully observed a leaf and created a scientific drawing of their leaf
- We completed "I noticed" statements about our leaves as a way to share what we learned and observed
- We will begin a unit on the moon next week

**Social Skills:**

- We finished reading the Incredible Flexible You series. The series includes:
  - Thinking Thoughts and Feeling Feelings
  - The Group Plan
  - Thinking with Your Eyes
  - Body in the Group
  - Whole Body Listening
- Voted on Classroom Citizen of the Week

**Classroom Citizen of the Week:**

Each week when a new friend is voted as our Classroom Citizen of the Week, we have a conversation about all the wonderful things that student did! We also talk about mistakes people make. Each of our friends is not perfect. We all make mistakes; it is how we learn. It's what we do with those mistakes that makes a difference. I think it's important for children to understand that being "perfect" isn't always best! This conversation is a nice way to reflect on the classroom and school expectations. It also gives others concrete examples of things they should be doing each day as a productive student! We've talked about how everyone will be voted for eventually and to strive to do their best ALWAYS. I let them know that I recognize all of the wonderful things each of them do EVERY SINGLE DAY! I also mention that it's important to keep persevering and if they are consistently making good choices, working hard, strategizing, solving conflicts in a respectful way, using kind words and thinking of others, they WILL get voted for. We ALL notice!

**Reminders/Upcoming events:**

- Please send in an old t-shirt as an art shirt. Put your child's name inside.
- Class council begins next Wednesday-Our class will see Mrs. Flanagan, our school counselor, each week for 30 minutes.
- All of my letters can be found on the HSD website should you need to look back at one
- October 9th-In service day for teachers. School is not in session
- October 15th-Color Run!

Please call or email with any questions or concerns. By the way, I love to hear success stories too; things your child does outside of school that you feel proud of and want to share! Communicating with me about all aspects of your child's life helps me to know your child well and to teach them best!

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\*\*Either email will work from now on