

September 29, 2017

Dear Families,

This week in First Grade.....

Language Arts:

- We began unit 2 of Foundations. We focused on tapping out consonant, vowel, consonant words, building them with magnetic letters and writing them on the white boards. Sentence frames were also introduced.
- We continue to add to our Readers Build Good Habits chart, focusing mainly on scooping up words into phrases and smoothing out our voice when reading.
- New strategies were introduced to solve hard words. So far the children have learned:
 - Check the pictures
 - Look at ALL parts of the word
 - Get a running start

We will continue to add more strategies next week

- Small Moment stories are still the focus of Writing Workshop. Students have learned these steps as a way to help them write an organized story:
 - Think of an idea (a thing you do, or a thing that happened to you)
 - Plan-touch and tell, then sketch across the pages
 - Write

They will move on to revision next week

Math:

- We played a game using number racks to help develop an understanding of part-part-whole relationships as they solve missing-addend and subtraction problems. Students were given a number and asked to build the quantity using both rows on the number rack. Then they share only the top row of their number rack with a partner, who then determines how many beads must be on the bottom row.
- Students were introduced to measurement using popsicle sticks and unifix cubes. The class used popsicle sticks and unifix cubes to measure objects around our room and compare the length of different things (table, chalkboard ledge, height of a chair, bookshelf, carpet, etc...).
- Practiced counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's

Social Skills:

- Spent time on Thursday reviewing and adding to classroom expectations and behaviors
- Voted on Classroom Citizen of the week and discussed all the extraordinary things our classmates are doing!

- Read the book, Personal Space Camp by, Julia Cook. This book teaches children the importance of personal space in a fun and creative way. Ask your son or daughter to tell you about it!

Homework:

In years past first graders have had a small amount of homework each week. I mentioned homework in a letter I sent home to you before a new district policy was in place. If you have read the Parent Handbook you probably noticed it. The language that is included in the handbook states:

"Homework for elementary school students has little to no impact on academic achievement. Because of this teachers are encouraged to provide minimal homework. All students are highly encouraged to read on a nightly basis for at least 20 minutes and practice other academic skills as needed. Additional homework may periodically be assigned by the classroom teachers to support and extend learning. Guardians who repeatedly find that homework is causing family stress should notify the school."

Because of this new policy, first graders will not have the typical math homework that has been assigned in the past. Even though there is no "official" homework being sent home, it is expected and encouraged that you read with your child every night for at least 20 minutes. The Foundations packets that I send home have great ideas and activities for you to do with your child at home as well. This is critical to their development as readers. If you have any questions about this, please call or email me.

Upcoming Events/Reminders:

- In service day for teachers- October 9th
- Farm Day-October 13
- Please send a water bottle with your child to leave at school.
- Send an old t-shirt as your child's art shirt with his/her name on the tag
- If you haven't filled out the parent survey I sent home a few weeks ago, please consider filling it out. It is very helpful and I like getting to know all of my students and families.

Please call or email with any questions or concerns

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