

September 8, 2017

Dear Families,

We've had a lot of fun in first grade so far this year! Here are some of the things we've been working on!

**Language Arts:**

- We learned routines and expectations for using the Foundations materials properly
- We reviewed letters, keywords and sounds
- We learned proper letter formation
- I introduced Writing Workshop. The class learned about their writing folder and how to be authors!
- We began writing personal narratives

**Math:**

- We learned routines and expectations for using Workplace materials
- We explored math materials i.e.) pattern blocks, unifix cubes, polydrons, dominos and geoboards
- We counted by 2's using twin pops!
- We graphed their favorite flavor popsicle
- We practiced counting by 5's
- We practiced counting by 1's and 2's forward and backward

**Social Skills:**

- We read the story Chester's Way by Kevin Henks. This book discusses ways to be a good friend and welcoming others into your circle of friends.
- We read the book Stick and Stone by Beth Ferry. This book also celebrates friendship and ways to "Stick" up for others.
- Created Stick and Stone posters showing three different ways to be a good friend and made our own "Stick" and "Stone" memorabilia to take home(coming home Monday).
- Made 'All About Me' posters as a way to get to know each other.
- We began reading the Incredible Flexible You series to help learn about social thinking and being part of a whole group.

(TURN OVER)

**Classroom Rules and Expectations:**

- We learned classroom rules and expectations
- I modeled and the class practiced White River School behavior
- Created classroom rules together as a group
- Drew pictures of the rules as reminders of what's expected

We were super busy getting to know all the related arts teachers as well. The class did a super job learning the routines, remembering morning jobs and being respectful first graders! I am so proud of how fast they are learning the new routine. They are a great group of kids!

**Upcoming events:**

September 14th-Open House at 5:00-includes hot dog dinner

September 22nd-Picture Day

**Reminders:**

- Please pack a healthy snack every day for your child. You may send and leave a water bottle here at school. The water fountain is far away so having a bottle in class is easiest.
- I have had a few parents/families ask about what we may need for our classroom. If you would like to donate any classroom items this is what I usually request:
  - Soft tissues
  - Lysol wipes for the cold season approaching

Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

turunens@hartfordschools.net