

First Grade News

October 2016

Mrs. Stafford

Mrs. Millward

Ms. Donovan

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Path

Notes:

Welcome to the debut of our First Grade News! This is our collective newsletter for first grade families. You can expect First Grade News to come home each month. Email updates will be sent as needed between publications.

October happenings... (Details are included in "Dates to Remember" at the end of each newsletter)

- Boo Bash Oct 28th and classroom parties are also on Oct 28th

Homework

Raz-Kids:

<https://www.kidsa-z.com/main/Login>

Teacher Login Names:

- Mrs. Stafford - staffordj,
- Mrs. Millward - lmillward
- Mrs. Smith - csmith110
- Miss Donovan - missdonovan
- Mrs. Path - rpath

Student Passwords: Your child's class number

Possible Assignment: Read/take tests for 10 - 15 minutes 3-4 nights per week (or the equivalent of that time)

IXL:

www.IXL.com/signin/Sayre

- Number Sense - A.4, A.6, A.11, A.12, A.13,
- Addition - D.1, D.2
- Subtraction - H.1, H.2
- Story Problems - D.5
- Shapes - V.1, V.2, V.3, V.4

Possible Assignment: Read/take tests for 10 - 15 minutes 3-4 nights per week (or the equivalent of that time)

Reading

Reading Workshop is up and running! We are on a mission to become powerful readers! *Readers stretch themselves to read with stamina and focus.* This is the first important concept we worked on as we launched Reading Workshop. Readers see that each day we stretch ourselves to become even better than the previous day. Teachers timed minutes read, demonstrated ways that readers can stay focused on print, and we practiced how to make meaning when reading.



This week your child "shopped" for Just Right books out of book tubs in our classroom library. The majority of their reading time during Reading Workshop is spent reading from these Just Right books. In future weeks, on Fridays, your child will pick two books from their book tub to bring home. As you read at home with your child, please remember to talk about the books. Reading the words without thinking about the story is short-changing the whole experience. There is a parent note and reading log included with the books. Books are due back on Thursdays.

A note about patterned books....Many beginning reading books contain patterned text. That is part of learning to read. Patterned text doesn't really give the reader much to retell. In these books, the story is often in the pictures. The text is almost like a caption. Talk up the story line in the pictures if your child is reading patterned books. Please remember to continue to read aloud to your child. This is a great opportunity to talk about books!

Past Reading Concepts:

- Readers envision the way their books go in their minds and revise them as they read on.
- Readers build stamina and focus by sharing reading and thinking with others.

Future Reading Concepts:

- Readers use strategies to solve words.
- Readers think about the text and how the words will go to help them read words.
- Readers use all they know about letter sounds, word patterns and sight words to read unknown words.

Writing

The first graders have been busy learning workshop routines and developing their stamina for writing tasks during these opening weeks of the school year. The children have been getting to know their classmates by conducting Student of the Day interviews. Each day we have asked one student in our class to tell us all about him/herself. The students have also been learning how to ask juicy questions that give us interesting details rather than yes or no responses.



After interviewing each student, the children have been composing their own "reports" about the Student of the Day. At the beginning of the year, the children composed one or two sentences on their own. Now, as this unit of study draws to a close, the students are writing at least three or four sentences independently. They are responsible for making sure that the sentences they write use spaces in between words, that they are at least five words long, and that they include some interesting details in their work. Students are also learning how to check their writing for proper use of capital letters and ending punctuation. First grade writers are striving for accuracy in their work by making sure they have spelled their words correctly. It is amazing to see how their stamina for writing has increased in just a few short weeks! We are looking forward to beginning our next writing unit with its focus on personal narrative, or Small Moment stories!

Math

Math workshop continues. Students have now internalized the routines and structures of the workshop. We started the year collecting data and putting them into graphs, while being able to tell three things we notice using graphing words (greater than, less than, equal). Students have been introduced to several different strategies to help them solve addition equations. We have learned to use different ways to represent a number. We have also learned how to play "Compare" and "Double Compare" with a deck of playing cards.



Past Math Learning Goals:

- I can use a math strategy to solve addition problems.
- I can think of different ways to represent a number.

Future Math Concepts:

- Recognizing attributes in 2D shapes
- Using strategies to solve a subtraction equation



Science & Social Studies



Our first science unit focuses on Tree Homes. We have studied trees outside and the parts of a tree (leaves, branches, bark, trunk, and roots). We also have discussed animals that use tree homes, such as bears and raccoons, and what they use them for (shelter, protection, food, and caring for their young). Our next science unit will focus on Solids and Liquids. In social studies, our first unit focused on being A Good Citizen. This unit tied in great with the start of the school year and creating classroom rules, because we explained why it is important to have rules. We discussed what makes a good citizen and gave examples on how we are good citizens by being responsible, fair, respecting authority, helping to resolve school issues, and honoring the United States of America. Our next social studies unit will focus on Families.



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Dates to Remember

Oct. 28	Classroom Halloween Party		In the classroom
Oct. 28	Boo Bash	6:30 - 9:00 pm	School-wide
Nov. 8	Curriculum Day (half day for students)		
Nov. 15, 16, 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences		
Nov. 15 & 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences (half day for students)		