

First Grade News

Winter 2017

Mrs. Stafford

Mrs. Millward

Ms. Donovan

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Path

Notes:

- Report Cards sent home - Wednesday, February 1st, 2017
- NO SCHOOL (Mid-Winter Break) - February 17th - 21st, 2017
- 100th Day of school celebrations - Friday, February 10th, 2017
- Friendship Party - Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 (more info to come from your teacher)
- Students half day - February 16th, 2017
- First Grade Music Conference - March 23rd, 2017 @ 6pm (more info to come closer to date)
- First Grade Field Trip - Wednesday, May 17th, 2017 to the Howell Nature Center (more info to come closer to date)

Homework

Raz-Kids:

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

Teacher Login Names:

- Mrs. Stafford - staffordj,
- Mrs. Millward - lmillward0
- 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:

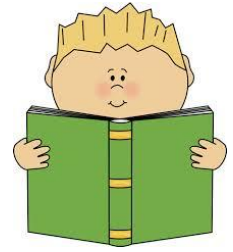
www.IXL.com/signin/Sayre

- **Number Sense - A.4, A.6, A.11, A.12, A.13,**

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

Reading

The students have been working on building comprehension skills by learning how to apply different strategies as they read independently or in small groups. We've been working on character traits, creating mental images, and making connections. The children have discovered that the characters in the stories have character traits, such as being happy, sad, funny, scared and so much more. We have also been working on creating mental images during our reading. Readers can see the events of the story unfolding in the mental images they create. The mental images change as the story changes and also as our understanding of the story changes. The children have been making text-to-self and text-to-text connections. The text-to-self connection reminds the reader of something that they have done or that has happened to them. The text-to-text connection is when the reader notices something happening in one story that reminds them of something that happens in another story. The children have been making connections with books we read as a class and also with books they are reading independently. Our next unit of study will focus on informational reading with non-fiction books.



Writing

The first grade students are really working hard in writing workshop this winter! We have finished our unit of study that focuses on personal narrative, "Small Moment" writing. The children have learned how to use the writing process to plan, draft, revise, and publish their work. First grade writers have been busy using revising strategies to make their drafts even better. Some strategies your first graders may be using when writing and revising at home include using a carat to insert a missing word or two, adding descriptive language (those spicy or juicy words), and editing their work to ensure accurate punctuation and capitalization. First grade writers have been taking care of their readers by making sure to use careful printing, appropriate-sized spacing between words, and spelling wall words correctly in their work.



Each of the first grade classes has started a new unit of study focusing on non-fiction writing. The children are busy using precise language to plan and draft books that teach the reader how to do something. We refer to these as "How-To Books". The kids have been breaking a task down into small steps and then using precise language to describe exactly what to do in each step. We've discovered that it's important to write down details like pushing the button down

on the toaster when teaching someone how to make toast or to open the bag of dog food when you are trying to explain how to feed a dog. The children will be adding other non-fiction text conventions such as captions and labeled diagrams to their work.

Math

Students continue to investigate different ways to solve addition problems including drawing a picture, utilizing manipulatives, a number line, or a hundreds chart. Students are also practicing how to show their thinking by illustrating addition equations. Students have also learned about Fact Families, and how to make four different equations using 3 of the same numbers. We have been working on putting numbers in increasing or decreasing orders. This has all helped students think about their numbers and how they all relate to one another. We will be taking the SLMA (South Lyon Mathematics Assessment) in the upcoming month. This test is a summation of all the materials taught for the first half of the year. Please look for the results of the SLMA in the upcoming report card. As we continue this year, we are moving into a measurement unit using both standard and nonstandard units of measurement.

Past Math Goals:

- I can use fact families to solve other equations.
- I can use a math strategy to solve addition problems.
- I can use a math strategy to solve subtraction problems.



Future Math Concepts:

- I can survey by asking questions and share my thinking by graphing the results.
- I can measure items using other items.
- I can measure items using a ruler.



Science & Social Studies



Past Science Unit: Solids and Liquids

The students have been observing various solids and liquids. The goal is for the students to be able to differentiate between solids and liquids and to describe solids and liquids by their properties. Students have been conducting experiments on solids and liquids to help them investigate their properties.

We defined solids as an object that does not change its shape when put into a container. For solids we have been describing properties such as color, shape, if it can stack or roll, sink or float, and whether or not it is magnetic. We defined liquids as a substance that takes the shape of its container. We describe properties of liquids by telling their color, viscosity (flow), and feel.

Next Social Studies Unit: How Do We Learn About Places?

Our next unit will be our social studies unit: *How Do We Learn About Places?* Students will learn about the maps and globes. They will also learn the difference between natural and human characteristics of land. We will discuss what characteristics of land need to be changed when new developments such as playgrounds, neighborhoods, and buildings are constructed.

Next Science Unit: Pebbles, Sand, and Silt

The students' knowledge of Natural Characteristics helps us to transition into our next Science Unit about Pebbles, Sand, and Silt. This unit is an introduction to earth science where students investigate and reflect about these earth materials and recognize them as natural resources. Students will come to know rocks by many names and in a variety of sizes. One example: Pebbles and sand are the same material, they are just different sizes. Students will participate in some of the following activities:

- Sorting rocks by their attributes
- Sifting and sorting rocks by size

Separating earth materials in water



Contact Information

(248) 573-8500



Mrs. Stafford
staffordj@slcs.us
ex: 2913

Mrs. Millward
millwardl@slcs.us
ex: 2915

Ms. Donovan
donovanm@slcs.us
ex:2916

Mrs. Smith
smithc@slcs.us
ex:2917

Mrs. Path
pathr@slcs.us
ex:2927

Dates to Remember

Jan. 25	Variety Show Dress Rehearsal	3:30 pm	MMS
Jan. 26	Variety Show	6:30 pm	MMS
Jan. 27	End of 2 nd Marking Period (reports cards go home Feb. 1)		
Feb. 1	Report Cards go Home		
Feb. 3	Family Bingo Night	7:00 pm	Cafeteria