



First Grade Happenings

Ms. Laura's Class



January 11, 2010

Returning from the break provided an energetic and joyful beginning to 2010. Each and everyone of your children brought back with them fantastic stories to share and huge desires to learn!



Language Arts:

READING – Students continue to participate in Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Read Alouds, Independent Reading, and WEB book reading. All these activities show the diversity within reading and the importance of using skills in reading as a way of enjoyment and learning new information. During the next PYP unit students will practice the importance of reading with expression. In order to read with expression students must understand punctuation, sentence formation, and also must comprehend their reading. This strategy shows an integration of various other skills practiced and creates a fun and enjoyable reading experience.

WRITING – There are many opportunities in our classroom for students to write in various forms. These include journal, monthly writing, stories, taking notes, explaining mathematical/scientific reasoning, etc. During the next few weeks we are going to be focusing on adding detail to our writing. Students will continue the writing process in which they pre-writing, drafting, editing, re-writing, and end with publishing. Each one of these steps will be focused on creating more interesting and descriptive pieces of writing.

SPELLING – In the classroom we continue focusing on spelling patterns (short vowels, beginning blends and diagraphs, etc.) and helping students identify patterns for unknown words. Students continue to feel motivated with the weekly spelling quizzes. Please make sure to spend a few minutes every day practicing the 6 words in tactile and fun ways. Make it a daily routine in order to encourage growth in spelling patterns.

We recommend using the diversity provided in reading and writing and using those in your households. Make sure that students are exposed to books, magazines, newspapers, etc. that allow them to see that reading is for different purposes. Encourage students to write in various different ways too. For example, ask for their help in writing your grocery lists, writing letters to family members, etc. Every child in our class is excited about reading and writing; share the fun with them!

Math:

GEOMETRY - We have started our geometry unit and the students are enjoying every minute of it. In this unit, students will be exposed to various geometric shapes and be able to describe them and also find them in our environment. Students will be guided to find characteristics of shapes: line, vertexes/corner, sides, color, shape, angles, etc. This will also help students gain vocabulary about describing our environment and proximity of objects to other



objects. Students will also start to be introduced to fractions based on geometric shapes.

PATTERNS – Geometry lends itself well to sorting and classifying concrete objects according to their attributes. From this, students will then recognize, describe, extend, and create their own patterns. It is important to note that there are various different kinds of patterns (repeating, increasing, decreasing, etc.).

ADDITION/SUBTRACTION – Students will continue to practice their addition and subtraction through conceptual learning experiences as well as learning their math facts. We will start working with larger numbers in which children will be practicing place value. Please encourage your child to always explain their thinking and use their mathematical thinking in everyday life.

Mathematics helps describe how our world works. So please use the skills and concepts that your child is gaining and help him/her analyze the world in which we live through shapes and numbers too!

Science:

How the World Works – Students are participating in our first science unit of inquiry while experimenting with forces. The central idea in this unit is that forces affect daily life. Through experiments and observation students will learn that all activities in our environment go through movement which is impacted by forces. Students will inquire into push/pull, wind, gravity, magnets, etc. Key concepts that are included in this unit are function – investigating how forces work, and causation – observing what impact forces have on daily life.

Way Cool/Kid Program (WCK):

~~WCK - Thinker~~

~~WCK – Communicator~~

Juan Esteban

Elaine

and

Liam

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- 1- It is a joy to have parent involvement in our classroom. If you are interested in coming in to our classroom please let me know. I will have planned parent involvement opportunities, or if you have ideas that you would like to share with our students that relate to the Unit of Inquiry or academic subjects, please do let me know.
- 2- Please label all sweaters. I continue to collect many sweaters in our classroom, and it would be great to return them to their owner.
- 3- Help your child gain responsibility in completing their homework daily. Create a daily routine in which your child has a personal place, with all necessary materials, in which he/she is able to do their homework. Remember to initial the monthly calendar when all homework has been completed.
- 4- Remember that it is important to help your child learn to be independent, so please allow them to dress themselves, clean-up after him/herself, and walk to and from car/bus people areas independently when on campus.
- 5- All library books should be returned on Fridays - Library Day.

Sincerely,

Laura Fried