



The First Grade Free Press :

November 2011 Rooms 2, 6, & 11

Day 42

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *Nov. 3 and Nov. 9...Afternoon Conferences
EARLY DISMISSAL no lunch served
- *Nov. 10 and 15...Evening Conferences
- *Nov. 8 No School Election Day
- *Nov. 23, 24, 25 No School...Happy Thanksgiving

Readers Workshop:



- *We have spent many days setting up the Reader's Workshop and giving an overview to all the parts! We've talked about what readers do, and what good listeners do. We've discussed choosing books.
- *We've spent lots of time talking about the strategies readers use when they get to a word that they are stuck on: checking the picture, getting our mouths ready, looking for "chunks" in words, seeing if it makes sense, and re-reading the sentence.
- *As part of the Making Meaning program, we have been making "text-to-self" connections. We have many times in our lives when we feel the same way that one of the characters is feeling! This helps us to understand the story better.
- *We are learning about retelling a story in sequence. We can talk about events that happen in the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of the story. We also use the words "first", "next", "then", and "last"

Fundations:



- * practice Letter Formation with our "large muscles". We wrote letters in the air being careful to start at the skyline or plane line NEVER from the grass line! Students then went to their desks and we used the Magnet Boards to "Tap to Read" and "Tap to Spell". We used Dry Erase boards to write sounds, tap and write words, write "trick words": **the of and**, then they even wrote a dictated sentence!
- *In Unit 3 we've learned about digraphs (two letters together that make one new sound): **ch, wh, sh, th, ck**
- *NEXT UP: Bonus Letters: **ff, ll, ss**

We go outside EVERY day, weather permitting. Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor recess!

Math:



- *Unit 2 in Investigations Math revolves around 2-D geometry!
- * First Graders have been finding different combinations of shapes to fill the same outlined areas. They focus on making bigger shapes from smaller shapes.
- *We have visited the Computer Lab and done shape building activities on the computers.
- *As the unit continues, we will be describing, sorting, and classifying shapes.
- *In the third part of the Unit, students will be combining triangles and squares to make various quilt designs both on paper and in the Computer Lab.

Writer's Workshop:



- *First grade authors continue to work on pieces of writing about things they know and love.
- *They have been working hard on learning how to write sentences using capitals and periods.
- *They are adding details to their story to help the reader picture what they are trying to say.

Social Studies/Science:

- *We learned about Christopher Columbus and added a poem about his 3 ships to our poetry notebooks.
- *Fire Safety included a video and a visit from the Long Hill Firefighters!
- *First Grade scientists observed the fall leaves. They brought one inside to sketch, measure, and write about.
- *Fall signs are all around us. Foliage has turned to yellows and browns. Flowers are drying up and seeds are traveling by wind, by bird, and even on our clothing!
- *We'll be learning about the Branches of Service for Veteran's Day.
- *Thanksgiving themes are a big part of our work in first grade during the month of November.