



The First Grade Free Press :

Month of September 2009 Rooms 2, 3, 6, & 11

Day 23

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *10/12 Columbus Day No school.
- *10/16 Parent Visitation 12:40-1:20. Please leave siblings at home.
- *10/30 Halloween Parties and Parade at 2:40. More info to follow!

Readers Workshop:



- *We have made our own class books modeled after some favorites like: Mary Wore Her Red Dress, and Chocolatina.
- *We have read many poems and have added them to our Poetry Binders. We'll have a BIG anthology of poems to read by June!
- *Poetry has given us opportunities for shared reading experiences. As we worked with these poems, we explored echo reading, choral reading, rhyming, and vocabulary building.
- *Our Reading Baskets are being filled with "just right books" that we can read! Ask us how we pick a "just right book".

Fundations:



- *We have reviewed all the consonant letters and their sounds. We have also reviewed the short vowel sounds. Echo, the owl, and Mini Echo help us drill our sounds each day.
- *The first graders have reviewed proper letter formation for all the lowercase letters. We make them in the air and then on our dry erase boards. Letters begin on either the skyline or the plane line; NEVER on the grass or worm line. We are working hard to develop good habits. Please refer to the formation guidelines that have been sent home when doing homework (writing of any kind)
- *We are using magnet boards and letter tiles to learn how to read and spell 3 letter words. We "tap" the sounds we hear and then put the tiles on the board.

The First Grade Free Press will be posted monthly on our websites. Please contact your child's teacher if you'd prefer a "hard copy".

Math:



Hands on math is in full swing in each first grade classroom!

- *We explored a variety of manipulatives: snap cubes, geo-blocks, and pattern blocks.
- *We tried out the calculators.
- *We looked for patterns and played "What Comes Next?" We built patterns with different objects and tried to stump our friends!
- *We played "Compare" and "Double Compare" with both dot cards and number cards to strengthen our counting and sense of numbers.
- *We played "Staircases" to practice ordering numbers from 1-12 and then 13-20.
- *We played 5 In A Row and Roll and Record to practice combining numbers
- *We are working to solve story problems. Remember to "show how you know".
- *The Peas and Carrots activity began a study of ways to make numbers using combinations. We're getting really good at recording our answers and showing how we keep track of all the combinations!
- *Calendar Math is a daily activity that helps us examine days of the week, patterns, and takes a beginning look at place value and the minute hand of a clock.
- *Check the class websites for the Math Enrichment Packet if you are interested.

Writer's Workshop:



- *Writer's Workshop is a favorite time of day in First Grade!
- *The authors are busy at work writing stories about things they know and care about. When we're "done" we find we've "just begun" and can check our words to see that they make sense and that we use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and a period at the end.
- *As illustrators we add details to our pictures so that they match the words we've written.
- *Look for The Map of the Heart activity that we'll put in our writing folders to help us if we have a hard time thinking of an idea for our next story!

Science/Social Studies:

- *Sharing Bags helped us to get to know our classroom community.....what an interesting group of First Graders we have!
- *We learned about the Constitution as we made our own classroom "laws".
- *Johnny Appleseed celebrated a birthday last week. What is he famous for?
- *We are looking for signs of fall.....colorful leaves, chilly temperatures, etc....