



First Grade News

Reading - This week in reading we began reading a new song, "Where Does the Wind Go?". This song is about the wind's journey from treetops, clouds, mountains, and streets until it blows itself away to a mysterious place. We practiced categorizing and classifying vocabulary words into "naming things" (pencil, wind, and tree) and "action words" (run, jump, and blow). We also discussed describing words that the author used to make us almost see, hear, and feel the wind. Finally we sang the story many times to promote fluency and rhythmic reading. Please ask your child some of the things they learned about "Where Does the Wind Go?"

Phonics - The students were introduced to three new sounds this week, we practiced the combination "qu"- queen, and the sound of "x" - x-ray, and the combination "th" - thumb. We practiced these sounds through new words and sentences. We introduced three new "high frequency" words, "give" "what" and "again" that the students had to say by sight. Each lesson we will be adding more words that they must recognize. Finally we used the previous sight words and the students had to make sentences using these words. Please ask your child about these sentences and words.

Writing - We continued our "Small Moments" stories this week. We began by discussing that writers fix up and publish pieces that they especially love. The students had to go through all of the stories that they have written so far and find their favorite. They then had to read their story and try to add more details to their stories from all of the activities that we have learned in first grade. Then we learned to use an editing checklist. On the checklist were things like, "I put spaces between my words, I checked the word wall, I spelled tricky words the best that I can, and I used punctuation and capital letters to start sentences". Finally the students had to get their books ready to publish by including a title, detailed pictures, and a cover. Please ask your child about their story.

Math - We continued learning about subtraction. It is important that the students understand that the minus sign (-) means that some or all of the objects get taken away. Some of the students are not paying attention to the sign. We had to write number sentences to model subtraction situations. Then we had to model and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction. Finally we had to write related subtraction facts to model situations that show two part. We also took the math fact fluency test again. In this test, the students are given 15 addition and subtraction problems. They must solve them as fast as they can. We are keeping track of how many they get correct and how it takes them to complete the test. We will practice this throughout the year. Please see if your child can tell you a subtraction problem using objects from your house.

Important Notes

- It was great to see so many families at conference time. Thank you all for taking the time to meet with us. Having a strong home/school relationship is instrumental in furthering your child's education. Please remember, if have any more question, comments, or concerns to please let us know right away.
- Cold season is coming fast. If you wouldn't mind, can you please donate a box or two of Kleenex to the class? We would really appreciate it!
- You should have received a list of the first grade sight words. Please practice these words on a weekly basis. By the end of first grade they have to say all of the words quickly. A couple of ideas to practice these words are if you make some words and play "Bingo" or make them into a "Memory" game. The students think they are playing a game and not just practicing words.
- Please collect Box Tops For Education and send them in. This is a great way to make money for the school. Our class has sent the PTA several baggies full so far. Thank you to all of the families that have already sent some in.
- Thank You to all of the families that are sending their child in with a healthy snack. If they bring in cookies, cakes, or donuts, I am not allowed to let them eat it. It is too much sugar and some students have a hard time concentrating after eating a sugary snack.
- Please remember to have your child wear sneakers on "Gym" days. It is important that your child wears sneakers so they can participate in the fun. If you need another copy of the letters day calendar please see us or the main office.
- ***Please note that our email addresses have changed.*** You can also e-mail us at b59gcara@mpspride.org , b47jmedy@mpspride.org , and b57dwats@mpspride.org or send in a note with your child and we will respond to you as quickly as we can.

Important Dates to Remember:

- December 1st-December 12th: Lights of Love Collection
- December 8th: David Cormier visits Waddell
- December 10th: District PD $\frac{1}{2}$ day
- December 12th: Mystic visits Grade 1
- December 12th: Holiday School Store
- December 18th: Winter Concert 2:00pm
- December 19th: Project Playground Wacky Tacky/Ugly Sweater Day
- December 24th-January 2nd: No School- Holiday Recess
- January 9th: Project Playground Adult Zumba Night
- January 14th: PTA Meeting 3:50pm
- January 16th: Family Movie Night
- January 19th: No School-Martin Luther King Day
- January 23rd: School Store
- January 30th: The Hartford Symphony Orchestra visits Grade 1, 9:30am

Thank You,
Mr. Carabillo
Mrs. Medynski
Mrs. Watson