



## First Grade News

**Reading** - We began this week reading our new story, "Signs of Spring". In this story, Lucy walks to school with her two friends, Henry and Zack. Along the way Lucy sees and collects many different signs of spring, like a daisy, a crocus, and a fern. We also learned that fiction stories have a "problem" and a "solution". It is important that your child be able to recognize what the problem was and how that problem was solved within the story. Please ask your child about some of the things that Lucy collected and see if they can tell you what the problem and the solution of the story was.

**Phonics** - The students were introduced to three new sounds this week, "e", "b", and "h". First they had to listen to me say the word slowly and tell me what words I was saying. Next I said the word and they had to say it slowly. I introduced three new "high frequency" words, "does", "any" and "there" that the students had to say by sight. Each lesson we will be adding more words that they must recognize. Finally I used the new sounds to make some short "e" words, "get", "bed", and "melt". Please ask your child about these sounds and words.

**Writing** - We continued writing about our "Small Moment". This week we began by learning about how to revise a piece of our writing. The saying in first grade is "When you think you are done, you have only just begun". We learned to revise by adding describing words with "Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How". We had to read our sentence and then ask our self if we could add more describing words to our sentences. This is very difficult for first graders and we will continue to practice it all year. We also learned to revise by using sentence strips if the addition to their sentence was a large addition. Please ask your child about the revisions they made to their writing.

**Math** - This week we finished Chapter 2. We have been practicing a lot of addition and subtraction. This chapter was meant to introduce the students to the topics of: putting groups together (addition) or taking some away from the entire group (subtraction). Then we reviewed all of the different ways in which we learned to add and subtract in the chapter. This was only the introduction for addition and subtraction. As the year progresses, we will learn many strategies to help us add and subtract. Finally we practiced telling time to the hour. We discussed the hour hand and the minute hand. Please see if your child can tell time on-the-hour. We will continue to practice telling time throughout the year.

## Important Notes

- The Manchester Fire Department visited our school this past week. They told us that we need to check the batteries in our smoke detectors and that we should have a plan of how to exit the house in case of an emergency and that we need to have a "meeting spot" for everyone to meet at. We also got to see a real fire truck.
- 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!
- Homework has started. Please have your child complete and return their homework the following day. These activities practice the concepts that we have learned in the classroom.
- 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.
- If you need to speak to us, before or after school is a convenient time. You can also e-mail us at [b59gcara@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b59gcara@manchesterct.gov), [b47jmedy@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b47jmedy@manchesterct.gov), and [b57dwats@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b57dwats@manchesterct.gov) or send in a note with your child and we will respond to you as quickly as we can.

## Important Dates to Remember:

- October 22<sup>nd</sup>: District PD  $\frac{1}{2}$  day
- October 24<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Party
- November 4<sup>th</sup>: District PD (No School for students-Election Day)
- November 5<sup>th</sup>: PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- November 10<sup>th</sup>: Project Playground PJ Day
- November 11<sup>th</sup>: No School-Veteran's Day
- November 13<sup>th</sup>: World Kindness Day
- November 14<sup>th</sup>: School Store
- November 21<sup>st</sup>: Turkey Bingo
- November 26<sup>th</sup>:  $\frac{1}{2}$  Day 1:17 Dismissal
- November 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>: No School-Thanksgiving Recess

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