



## First Grade News

**Reading** - This week in reading we learned a new song, "In The Wild", where some children go "camping in the wild", but they really are just camping in their backyard. They forgot to bring food and matches for the fire. They also got scared by their own dog growling. We discussed comparing what they really did and what the song made it sound like they were doing. Finally we discussed that a period comes at the end of a statement. When you are reading a story with your child please ask your child to tell you about the punctuation in that sentence. Please ask your child about the song.

**Phonics** - The students were introduced to three new sounds this week, "o", "l" and "r". 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, "they", "has" and "were" 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 words, "ran", "last", and "not". Please ask your child about these sounds and words. Also, please continue to read the "Partner Practice" pages that come home with your child every week.

**Writing** - We completed the first 20 lessons of "Writer's Workshop". This week we discussed using a "rubric" to grade the students writing. Our rubric had 4 levels. Level 1 did not have details or dialogue. Level 2 had little details and dialogue. Level 3 had some details and dialogue. Finally level 4 had lots of details and dialogue. We will expand on this rubric as the year goes on. Then we began our "Small Moments" writing. We did this by reading the story, "Night of the Veggie Monster" by George McClement. It is about a little boy who becomes a "Veggie Monster" when his parent make him eat vegetables. This story showed us that we can take one small moment in our life and make it into a story. Please ask your child about their story.

**Math** - This week we introduced the concept of subtraction by using pictures and objects. We needed to "take away" some of the objects. Next, we learned how to write a subtraction sentence and use numbers and words to show the problem. We used words like tip over, blew away, eaten, fell over, and flew away. Then we had to draw a picture showing subtraction. After they had drawn the picture, the students had to write the sentence \_\_\_ take away \_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. Please have your child draw you a subtraction problem and have them explain what is happening in their picture. This is a concept that we will continue to practice throughout the school year.

## Important Notes

- 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 13<sup>th</sup>: No School-Columbus Day
- October 16<sup>th</sup>: Fire Prevention Presentation
- October 17<sup>th</sup>: School Store
- 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