



First Grade News

Reading - To begin our week we read a story about Veteran's Day. This story explained why we celebrate Veteran's Day and why it was changed from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day. We also got to meet a Veteran and we wrote "Thank You" cards and gave them to the veterans at our assembly. Then we continued reading our story called, "Zoo Looking". In this story, a little girl named Flora visits the zoo with her father. She looks at the animals, while some of them observe her. We discussed making predictions based on the pictures and the title. We also discussed interpreting information within the text to form a new understanding. Finally, we discussed past tense verbs and how they end with a "d" or an "ed". Please ask your child about Veteran's Day and about our new story, "Zoo Looking".

Phonics - The students were introduced to two new sounds this week, "j" - jar, "k" - key, and "v" - vest. We practiced these sounds through new words and sentences. I introduced three new "high frequency" words, "about" "two" and "some" that the students had to say by sight. Each lesson we will be adding more words that they must recognize. Finally I used the previous sight words and the students had to make sentences using these words. Please ask your child about these sentences and words and continue practicing the first grade sight words that were sent home.

Writing - This week we completed our second assessment of writing. The students had to write a fiction story of their own choosing. These stories should include characters, a setting, a problem and solution. They should have a beginning, middle and end to the story. The student were taught to bring the characters to life by adding movement, feelings, and making the characters talk. We also were looking for capitalization, punctuation, correct writing formation and neatness of writing. We will show you these assessments at conference time. Please ask your child what they wrote their fiction story about.

Math - This week we learned about the equal sign (=). We said that the equal sign means that whatever is on one side of the sign, the other side must equal the same amount. Next the students were given several equations, some of them were correct and some were not. The students had to figure the equation out and tell whether it was true or false. Then the students had to say why the equation was true or false. We also discussed related addition and subtraction facts. If $5+3=8$ then, $8-3=5$ and $8-5=3$. This is a difficult concept for first graders and will be reviewed several times throughout the year. We also practice related addition and subtraction equations. This means that if you take $5+2=7$ then you know that $7-5=2$ and $7-2=5$. This is also a difficult concept and will be practiced throughout the year.

Important Notes

- Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up in a few weeks. Please make sure that you have scheduled a time to meet with the teacher to discuss your child progress.
- Please remember that December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th are half days and the students will be dismissed at 1:17 p.m.
- 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.
- *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:

- November 18th Lutz Museum visits First Grade
- November 21st: Turkey Bingo
- November 26th: $\frac{1}{2}$ Day 1:17 Dismissal
- November 27th & 28th: No School-Thanksgiving Recess
- December 1st-December 12th: Lights of Love Collection
- December 2nd, 3rd & 4th: Conferences $\frac{1}{2}$ day
- December 5th: School Store
- 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

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