

October 12, 2015

Dear Parents,

***Please remember that conferences start next week. Your child will be coming home on Tuesday with a specific date and time for your conference. We have made every effort to schedule your conference according to your preference. **Please complete the form and return it with your child as soon as possible!**

Phonics/Penmanship:

Last week we began learning Word Wall Words! These are words that the children will encounter almost every day as they read and write. So we want the children to be able to read and write these words in a "SNAP". They are high frequency words that the children should be able to read from sight and not by stretching them or sounding them out. Therefore, we introduce 5 new words on Monday and practice reading and writing them until Friday. We would appreciate your support with this at home. Many parents take these words and place them on index cards. They use the cards as flash cards and have their child practice reading and writing them. You can also ask your child to become "Word Detectives" and they can search for these special words in books! We will have a "word wall quiz" every Friday where the children will practice writing each of the five words independently.

Tonight's Homework: Our 5 new word wall words this week are: **he, she, is, it, favorite**. Please use the Word Wall Menu to complete at least 3 activities.

Reading:

The past few weeks have been very exciting during reading! The children have started to read books that are at their "just right" level. They will keep these books that they have personally "shopped" for in their book bins. When it is time to partner read, they take their book bins with them and meet in a special place to read together. We have also begun Small Group Instruction. This is where we pull small groups of children who are reading on or around the same level or who have similar reading behaviors. We will use this time to teach more individualized lessons on decoding skills and comprehension strategies. The children will be able to take home some of their "just right" books and their book from their Small Group Instruction group to celebrate for Reading Homework on Tuesdays. Within the next few weeks, on Tuesdays, your child will bring home a Ziploc bag with a book in it. Have your child share these books with you at home. You will also find a Parent Comment Book that you may use to write comments or questions about your child's reading. Please remember that we will do our best to write back, but it won't come home to you until the following Tuesday. You do not have to write in the

journal every week BUT please remember to send the bag (with all of its contents) back with your child the very next day!

Writing

The children have learned that writers use words they know to spell new and more challenging words. By helping children draw on the words they already know how to spell to tackle words they want to write, they will progress from spelling in a phoneme-by-phoneme way toward hearing and recording chunks of words. They will learn to hear parts of words that are the same to write unfamiliar words more efficiently. The builder words that you see on our Word wall homework (and, like) will be the starting point for this important work. The children will learn that if they know a snap word, then they know how to spell many other words. Once a builder word is introduced, the children will become responsible for spelling word variations independently.

Health

Last week all of the first grade classes watched a video on Fire Safety during Fire Prevention week. Please ask your child about the video and make a fire escape route at your house!

Odds and Ends:

*Wednesday, October 14 is Picture Day!

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini
Allison Cabezas
Debbie Jacobs