First Grade News

October 27, 2014

Dear Parents,

We enjoyed meeting with many families during conferences last week and we are looking forward to the rest of our conferences this week. **Please be reminded that we will have early dismissal on both, Wednesday the 22nd and Thursday the 23rd at 1:40 pm.**

Phonics/Penmanship:
Tonight's Homework: Please complete the word wall homework. Our 5 new word wall words this week are: **this, be, we, am, went.**
How can you help: 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.

Reading:
On most 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
We have been studying the craft moves of the author George McClement in the story *Night of the Veggie Monster*. It is an adorable story about a little boy's reaction to being served peas as a part of his dinner. Last week we learned that one craft move writers use is telling the *exact actions* people do. In the story, George McClement wrote the exact actions the little boy took with his body: the little boy's toes *twist* and *curl up* in his shoes. He *squirms* in his seat. He starts to *transform.* George could have written, 'My body doesn't like it when I eat the pea,'

but that would have had the same effect. All of those exact actions George wrote really pull the reader into the story and help make a movie in our minds.

Math
We have started a new unit. Please see below for more information.

Social Studies
Mark your calendars! First grade is preparing for our *first presentation!* We will be presenting the story of The First Thanksgiving on Monday, November 24, 2014. Here is our schedule:

1-Rojee   10:45-11:30 (in room 10)
1-Jacobs   11:00-11:45 (in room 6)
1-Cabezas 11:15-12:00 (in room 5)

Halloween
We will be participating in the Jennings Halloween parade. Children are invited to wear their costumes to school on Friday, October 31st. You may want to send your child to school with clothes he/she can change into if the costume is uncomfortable or (too distracting). For everyone's safety, we are asking that weapons, masks and dangerous apparatus be left at home.

Respectfully yours,

Allison Cabezas
Debbie Jacobs
Maureen Rojee

We are beginning Unit 2: Whole Number Concepts, Estimation and Computation using Addition and Subtraction within Twenty. In this unit students will focus on strategies that involve composing numbers (putting together) and decomposing numbers(breaking apart). Through a series of investigations students will develop a deeper understanding of equivalence. Students will understand that numbers can be grouped in a variety of ways or presented in a different order, and the quantity will stay the same. Students will develop automaticity of facts by focusing on number relationships and will use benchmark numbers to develop efficient strategies for computing. Students will solve and write addition and subtraction story problems.

Some examples of the work your child will be doing are:

- Students will develop an understanding of equivalence.
  - Example: $4 + 8 = 7 +$ ___

- Students will count to 120 starting at any number less than 120

- Students will find all the combinations of a given number.
  - Example: Find the combinations to make 15.

- Students will use a variety of strategies to develop automaticity of facts.
  Examples:
  - Doubles facts: $4 + 4 = 8$
  - Near doubles: $7 + 8 =$
    $(7 + 7) + 1 = 15$ or
    $(8 + 8) - 1 = 15$
  - Counting on: $6 + 2$ can be thought of as 6 plus 2 more (7, 8)
  - Making ten: $8 + 6 = (8 + 2) + 4 = 14$
  - Compensation: $4 + 9 = 3 + 10$

- Students will investigate the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Example: If $3 + 8 = 11$ then $11 - 8 = 3$

- Students will compose and decompose numbers through 20 using algebraic properties.
  Examples:
  - Commutative Property: $8 + 5 = 5 + 8$
  - Associative Property: $7 + 6 + 3 = (7 + 3) + 6 = 16$

- Students will solve addition and subtraction story problems.

- Students will use benchmark numbers to solve problems more efficiently.
- Example: 5 + 7 could be thought of as (5 + 5) + 2

Here is how you can help your child while our class is working on this unit:

- Practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
- Play games that reinforce addition and subtraction strategies.
- Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage them to think about how to compose and decompose numbers.
- Use benchmark numbers like 5 or 10 to help solve problems mentally.
- Example: 7 + 8 = 7 + (3 + 5) = (7 + 3) + 5
- Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems. By explaining her/his thinking your child will be reinforcing her/his understanding of concepts and skills.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or the Math Science Teacher.

For additional information, take a look at the Fairfield Public School Parent Guide at http://fairfieldpublicschoolsk5math.wikispaces.com/home