First Grade News

January 25, 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed the snow this weekend. Here’s our news!

**Phonics/Penmanship**

The new word wall words for the week are: could, back, our, by, put. Please complete at least 3 activities with the spelling menu. There will be a word wall test on Friday.

**Reading Workshop**

This week we are continuing to study fictional characters. We have learned that we can learn more about characters by noticing the things they say, do and feel. The students have been working to notice characters’ feeling and provide evidence in the text to support their thinking!

***How you can help at home***: As you read stories at home with your children, stop to talk about characters’ feeling and what clues the author gave to show the feeling.

**Writing**

This week we are continuing our new unit called Writing Reviews. It has been so much fun to watch the kids explore their collections and to prove why they feel one is better than the rest. As writers, they have learned that it is important to give more than one reason for their opinion. It is also important to explain each reason with supporting details. Within the unit, the students have also learned to use comparisons and to quote experts to strengthen their point of view.

***How you can help at home*:** The kids will be writing real reviews soon. Start brainstorming topics with your child at home of places and things they know a lot about and could write a review on. Some ideas are movies like Frozen and Big Hero 6 or restaurants like Super Duper Weenie and Bear and Grill. They can also review places they’ve gone on vacation to like Disney or Atlantis. The topics are endless!

**Math**

We are beginning a new math unit this week called Place Value. Please read the attached information below.

**Social Studies**

Each class has been studying the world around them. We have learned about the continent we live on, our state, town and address. We noticed that many children didn’t know their address quickly. Please continue to practice this with your child!

**Spring Party**

The first graders will be making tie-dyed t-shirts for their upcoming spring party on **Tuesday, March 1st**. We will wear the shirts on our upcoming field trips. Thank you to the parents that signed up to volunteer at the party. We would love to have as many hands as possible to make each session go smoothly. Here is the schedule for each class:

1:30-2:00pm Mrs. Barzottini

2:00-2:30pm Mrs. Jacobs

2:30-3:00pm Mrs. Cabezas

**Gentle Reminders**

We are trying very hard to encourage independence in our first graders here in school. We ask that you help us with this at home as well. Please remind your child that they are responsible for their homework assignments. That includes remembering what they are, explaining the procedures or directions to you, and remembering to place it in their backpack the second it’s complete. We have many first graders who immediately blame their parents for missing homework. We like to tell them that it is really not your fault. It is a first grader’s responsibility to take care of their homework.

Thank you for your help and support at home. This is a team effort and we work beautifully together!

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini

Allison Cabezas

Debbie Jacobs





