

Dear Parents,
We hope you enjoyed the snow this weekend. Here's our news!

Phonics/Spelling

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

Grade 1 - Unit 4

We are beginning Unit 4: Place Value. The purpose of this unit is to develop the students' understanding of place value. Using a series of investigations students will gather data and study patterns in our place value system to deepen their understanding of place value concepts. Students will understand that a digit can represent ones or tens or hundreds, depending on where it is placed and will compare two-digit numbers. Students will see that place value patterns occur when making and adding groups of ten. They will also understand that groupings of ones, tens, and hundreds can be put together and taken apart in different ways.

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

- Students will understand that a collection of objects can be thought of as a group.
 - Example: 10 cubes can be thought of as one group of ten. (This is called unitizing.)
- Students will understand that groupings of ones, tens, and hundreds can be composed (put together) and decomposed (taken apart) in different ways.
 - Example: $23 = 2 \text{ tens} + 3 \text{ ones}$ or $1 \text{ ten} + 13 \text{ ones}$
- Students will notice patterns that occur when making and adding groups of ten.
 - Example: 46, 56, 66, 76, 86, 96, 106...What do you notice?
 - Example: What number is 10 greater than 78? How do you know?
 - Example: If we took 10 away from 86, how many would we have? How do you know?
- Students will add and subtract using benchmark numbers.
 - Example: $18 + 5$ can be thought of as $18 + (2 + 3) =$
 $(18 + 2) + 3 =$
 $20 + 3 = 23$
- Students will use the commutative and associative properties to add efficiently.
 - Example: If you know that $5 + 3 = 8$, then you know that $3 + 5 = 8$.
 - Example: $3 + 6 + 7$ can be restructured as $(3 + 7) + 6 = 16$

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 your child to think about how to compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) 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://fairfieldpublicschools.k5math.wikispaces.com/home>