

First Grade News

January 29, 2018

Dear Parents,

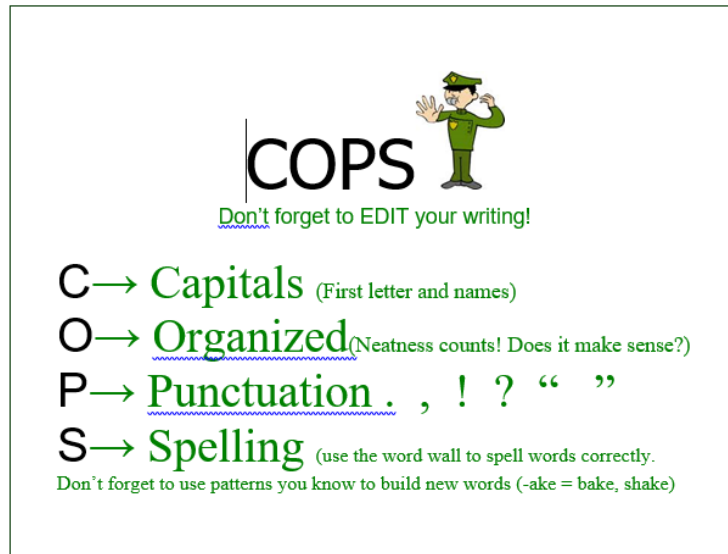
C.A.N.E.

Thank you to our parent volunteers for teaching us all about bird adaptations. We learned so much and had so much fun, too!

Word Wall Words

The new words for the week are: **make, not, my, new, for**. Please practice these words at home by completing at least 3 spelling menu activities, including sentence writing. Kindly return the work by Friday. There will be a checkpoint on Friday to review these words and last week's words (come, day, you, your, get).

**We are working on remembering to begin each sentence with a capital letter and end with punctuation (!, ? or .).



A poster titled "COPS" with a cartoon policeman character. Below the title is the instruction "Don't forget to EDIT your writing!". The acronym is defined as follows:

- C** → **Capitals** (First letter and names)
- O** → **Organized** (Neatness counts! Does it make sense?)
- P** → **Punctuation** . , ! ? “ ”
- S** → **Spelling** (use the word wall to spell words correctly. Don't forget to use patterns you know to build new words (-ake = bake, shake))

Other concepts/skills we are working on:

*strengthening short vowels a=apple, e=egg, i=igloo, o=octopus, u=umbrella

*contractions: I am = I'm

*reading and writing words with blends/consonant clusters and digraphs at the beginning and ending of words (frog, plum, bump, fast, chip, shop, whale, bath). See the posters below!

Consonant Cluster Linking Chart				bl 
br 	cl 	cr 	dr 	
fl 	fr 	gl 	gr 	
pl 	pr 	sc 	sk 	
sl 	sm 	sn 	sp 	
st 	sw 	tr 	tw 	
ch 	sh 	wh 	th 	

My Ending Blends Chart				
nd 	nk 	nt 	ng 	mp 
st 	sk 	ft 	ct 	pt 
lt 	lk 	ld 	lf 	lp 
lm 	rm 	rn 	rp 	rt 
rd 	rf 	rk 	rl 	mb 

Writing

The First Graders have been working on Writing Reviews for the last couple of weeks. We just finished writing about the collections we brought from home. Your child thought about which item was the best in the collection and gave many reasons for their opinion. We have learned that we can sometimes expect disagreements when we talk about our opinions. We also learned that we could try to convince or persuade someone to change their thinking by giving specific reasons. This week we will continue to write reviews, but we will shift our focus from our home collections to other things we love and enjoy. We are asking you to help your child come up with some other topics that they can review in class. It can be restaurants, places, movies, vacations, etc.

How can you help: Please complete the writing homework and return it to class promptly.

Math

Last week we began our new unit on Geometry and Fractions. We reviewed 2-Dimensional shapes. Here is a poster we have in our classroom:

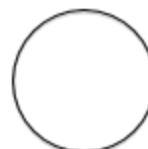
2 Dimensional Shapes Definitions



Square: a parallelogram with 4 equal or congruent sides and 4 right angles



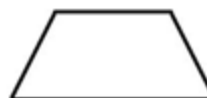
Triangle: a polygon with three angles and three sides



Circle: A 2-dimensional shape made by drawing a curve that is always the same distance from a center



Rectangle: A 4-sided figure with straight sides and 4 right angles. Also opposite sides are parallel and opposite sides of equal length. Example: A square is a special type of rectangle.



Trapezoid: a four-sided figure with exactly two parallel sides



Hexagon: a polygon with 6 sides and six angles



Pentagon: a polygon with 5 sides and 5 angles



Rhombus: a parallelogram (opposite sides are parallel) with all four sides equal in length and opposite angles are equal

We learned that defining attributes are characteristics that describe shapes.

Defining Attributes:

*Closed

*Sides - straight, slanted

*Corners/points (vertices)

We also built shapes on geoboards and used defining attributes to describe them.

Here is a link to a fun website for geoboards:

<https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/web-apps/geoboard/>

Social Studies

We have been studying where we live in the World through a book called *Me on the Map*. We have learned that we live in:

*the continent of North America.

*the country of The United States of America.

*the state of Connecticut.

*the town of Fairfield.

Many students still do not know their address. Please continue to work with them at home. We also had a conversation about learning your home phone number. These are all things that could keep us safe!

Second Steps/Health

Our second unit of study has focused on Empathy. Being able to feel or understand what another person is feeling prepares students to manage their own strong emotions and solve interpersonal problems with others. Students were introduced to identifying emotions based on visual clues. Another important part of empathy is learning to understand the situational causes of people's emotions. We are also beginning to recognize that people can feel and think different things about the same situation. Sometimes our feeling even change! This skill is an important part of social perspective taking. Not assuming everyone feels just as they do or as they would in a situation helps children build empathy.

100th Day

100th day...we are getting so close!!! As of right now, it will on February 7th. The 100th day is a big celebration in first grade! One way we celebrate is by dressing up as if we were 100 years old. See the flyer coming home today for more information!

Tie-Dye Event

Our Tie-Dye event will be on March 1st. We are looking for many volunteers to help with this fun project. Please return the t-shirt order form as soon as possible.

Valentine's Day

A letter is coming home today with details about cards. Please send them in no later than Friday, February 9th!

Supplies

It is that time of year!! Please ask your child if they are in need of sharpened pencils, markers, crayons, etc. We are also looking for donations of recess equipment (balls, jump ropes, chalk, etc.).

Sincerely,

Allison Hafford and Debbie Jacobs