

First Grade Newsletter

October 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful weekend! Here is our news for the week!

After School Activities

Please send a dismissal note when your child has an After School Activity to confirm that they are going that day.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell will begin next Monday 10/8. Please refer to the information sheet that is coming home this week.

Parent Readers

Both first grade classrooms will be inviting parent readers into the classroom to read stories to the children. 1J and 1H room parents are working on sending out a sign-up sheet through Sign-Up Genius. You should be receiving the information very soon!

Handwriting

We are continuing to practice writing numerals. We have focused on thinking about our posture and using our non-dominant hand or "helping hand" to stabilize the paper.

Reading Workshop

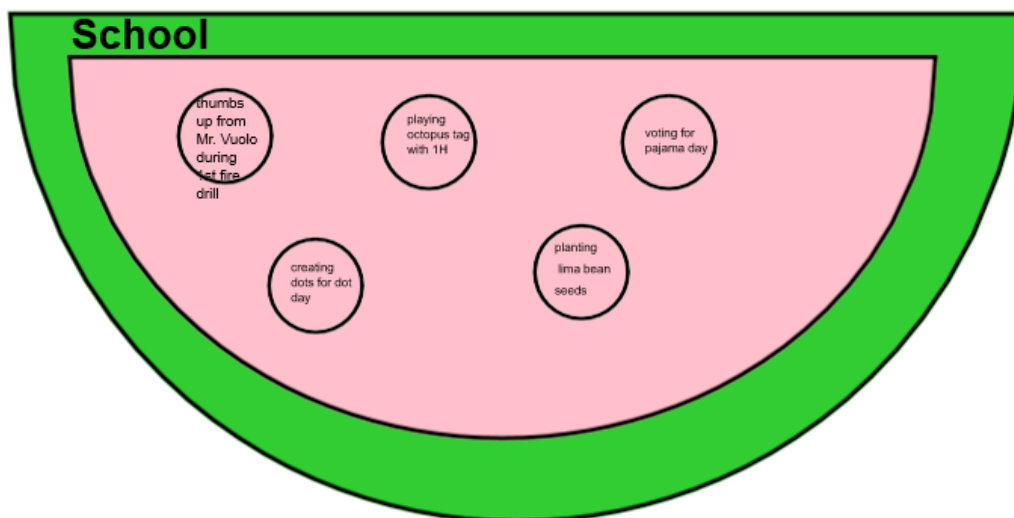
Last week we talked about how books feel when we read them. Sometimes they feel too easy when you know all the words by heart. They may feel too hard when you have to use your strategies to figure out every single word. Books should feel just right! These books require the kids to use strategies to figure out some tricky words, but they feel successful when they are able to do it!

All First Graders now have their own reading bins filled with "just-right" books that they personally shopped for last week. During private and partner reading, students will practice reading these books by themselves or with a partner.

Writing Workshop

Last week we worked on teaching the students to write about one small time instead of writing "about everything" stories. We learned that sometimes we have been writing about big giant topics like *school, vacation or friends*. We call these "watermelon topics" because they are so big. They are so big, in fact, that just as they are hard to carry, they are hard to write! We now know that writers write about teen tiny 'seed ideas' - little stories inside the one big topic. We also learned that inside a watermelon topic there are a zillion teeny seed stories. Here's our brainstorming session where we were trying to zoom the big watermelon topic of School into many different seed ideas!

Instead of writing about big watermelon topics, writers write about teeny tiny seed ideas.



Math Workshop

Last week we worked on various classroom investigations where the kids investigated the idea of doubles. Please help reinforce double facts at home with your children ($1+1=2$, $2+2=4$, $3+3=6$).

Respectfully yours,
Debbie Jacobs and Allison Hafford