

First Grade Newsletter

October 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a great weekend. There will be an early dismissal on Tuesday, October 23 at 1:40. Please continue to send a note if your child has a change in dismissal.

Word Wall Words

The 5 new words for this week are: **her, his, has, to, because**. Your child should complete at least 3 activities from the Spelling Menu. Feel free to send in any of their work by Friday. We will be having a word wall quiz on next Friday.

Reading Workshop

For Tuesday night's homework please have your child login to Big Universe and read a couple of books.

Our focus has been to revisit the reading strategies that were first introduced in Kindergarten. We have learned that good readers may need to use more than one strategy to figure out a tricky word. Good readers also ask themselves, "Does it make sense, sound right, and look right?" Why is this goal important?

In order to construct accurate meaning from a text, children need to read words correctly, integrating three sources of information: meaning, syntax, and visual. *Meaning* refers to the reader thinking about what makes sense and reading words that match the picture and/or what's happening so far in the text. *Syntax* means readers use their knowledge of sentence structure, grammar, and parts of speech to read words that agree with the written form of Standard English. *Visual* means that readers look at the letters in the word and use what they know about how words work to read a word that looks like the word in print (Clay 2000, 2001).

Writing

The children have learned that writers use words they know to spell new and more challenging words. By helping children draw on the words they already know how to spell to tackle words they want to write, they will progress from spelling in a phoneme-by-phoneme way toward hearing and recording chunks of words. They will learn to hear parts of words that are the same to write unfamiliar words more efficiently. The builder words that you see on our Word wall homework (and, like) will be the starting point for this important work. The children will learn that if they know a snap word, then they know how to spell many other words. Once a builder word is introduced, the children will become responsible for spelling word variations independently.

Math Workshop

We began Unit 2 last week. Please refer to Mrs. Ruppert's email for more specific information regarding the unit.

This week we will be making double-flap cards to discover the relationships between addition and subtraction, the further explore the commutative property, and to learn to solve for an unknown in any position. We will build equation fact families and story problems.

Respectfully yours,
Debbie Jacobs and Allison Hafford