

Dear Parents,

Word Work:

The new words for this week are: **at, are, can, there, had**. Please use the Word Wall menu to complete at least 3 activities this week. There will be a word wall quiz on Friday.

Reading:

We have continued our nonfiction unit of study and learned that not all nonfiction books look the same. The students have learned about biographies, how to and all about books. They have also started to explore the various features that nonfiction book have to offer, such as a table of contents, photographs and section headings. This week we will continue to explore more nonfiction features.

Writing

We have continued to write teaching book during our Nonfiction unit. Many times we see that as children write informational books, they often write just one sentence, almost a topic sentence, on each page before heading to the next page. Writing several sentences on a page before starting the next page is important work for first graders at this point in the year. There are many ways to teach children to say more. One way is to help them elaborate is have them think about the questions readers will ask and then put answers to those questions into their books. We teach them that people want details. They want to know what things look like, for example, and that means they'll ask about numbers, sizes, shapes, and colors. They want to know how things work, and they'll ask about what happens first, next, and next.

Math

Some of our class investigations are focusing on the strategies compensation and equivalence. Children may initially have a difficult time comprehending that $5+3$ is equivalent to $4+4$. The big ideas here are compensation and equivalence- that if you lose one (from the five, for example) but gain it (onto the three), the total stays the same. These big ideas, once

constructed, allow children to realize that a problem like $6+8$ can be solved with a double, $7+7$.

Turkey Project

Please send in the family turkey project. Send completed turkeys back by Monday, November 16.

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini

Allison Cabezas

Debbie Jacobs