

Dear Parents,
Here's our news for the week!

Word Work:

The new words for this week are: **come, day, you, your, get**. 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 begun a new unit called *Appreciating Fiction through the Characters' Eyes*. In this unit, students will look deeply at characters and themes to deepen their understanding of fiction. Throughout the unit our essential questions will be: How does getting to know a character help readers understand a story? How can our personal experiences help us determine life lessons/themes in books? Throughout the unit, Students will:

- * use story elements to understand the characters' journey
- *make predictions about the story or about a character's actions
- *retell story events and determine importance
- *Identify and learn about main and minor characters
- *analyze character actions and motivations
- *sound like characters to read with fluency and expression
- *determine life lessons/themes through character(s) actions, words, and thoughts

Math:

Last week we began our 3rd unit called *Geometry and Fractions*. **Please take a closer look below.**

Save the Date:

Our winter celebration will be held on Monday December 21st from 11:20-11:55 in your child's classroom. All parents are welcome to attend. We will be making a winter craft and reading a story. Please leave plenty of time to check into the office prior to coming to your child's classroom. Oh what fun the cold weather brings!

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini
Allison Cabezas
Debbie Jacobs

Grade 1 – Unit 3

We are beginning Unit 3: Geometry and Fractions. In this unit students will focus on the attributes of shapes to understand how shapes are alike and different. Students will compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) shapes. They will recognize and compare shapes from different perspectives and orientations. Students will partition shapes into fractional parts and will understand that fractional parts have special names.

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

- Students will identify shapes by their attributes and sort shapes.
 - Example: A square has 4 sides and 4 corners (vertices)
- Students will compose (put together) and decompose (take apart) shapes to understand that smaller shapes make up larger shapes and larger shapes can be broken into smaller shapes.
 - Example: How many trapezoids make a hexagon? (2)



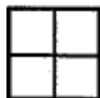
- Example: How can a hexagon be broken into smaller shapes?



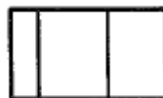
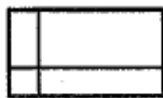
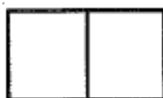
- Students will partition circles and rectangles into halves and fourths. Students will divide shapes into fractional pieces, label these pieces, and identify fractional amounts.
 - Example: Draw a line to divide the shape into 2 equal parts.



- Example: Label the fractional parts.



- Students will understand the concept of equal parts.
 - Example: Color the figure that shows equal parts:



Here is how you can help your child while our class is working on this unit:

- Practice basic addition and subtraction facts.
- As you practice basic facts and play games that were sent home with students during math units 1 and 2, remind students of the strategies they learned in units 1 and 2. (counting on, making ten, doubles, and near doubles). Help them to utilize efficient strategies when practicing their basic facts.
- With your child, notice shapes around you. Discuss how shapes can be divided into other shapes. Take note of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes in your home, on the playground, and at the store.
- Reinforce strategies that help your child think flexibly about numbers. Encourage them to think about how to compose and decompose numbers.
- 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://fairfieldpublicschools5math.wikispaces.com/home>