First Grade News

February 1, 2016

Dear Parents,

Here’s our news!

**Phonics/Penmanship**

The new word wall words for the week are: **us, when, out, car, but**. Please complete at least 3 activities with the spelling menu. At this point in the year, we would like to encourage the kids to do a little more sentence writing at home. They can put the word wall words in sentences with a capital letter to begin each sentence and ending punctuation. There will be a word wall test on Friday.

**Writing**

This week we are continuing our new unit called Writing Reviews. The students have started to review various things like restaurants, movies and toys. They were amazed when we told them that there are people whose job it is to play video games and to eat at restaurants as their job! We have learned that opinion writers have the big job of not only stating an opinion and supplying reasons but also of persuading others. They need to get people they don’t even know to trust their judgements and follow their lead. This is very exciting work for the kids!

**Math**

This week we have continued our unit on Place Value. This unit begins with the story of the Masloppy family- an endearing, large family that finds it difficult to keep track of things. Everyone is forever losing, misplacing, and looking for things. One of the children, Nicholas, decides to sort, organize, and take inventory of things in the house. He counts and bundles materials and labels containers and baskets, and life in the Masloppy household is smoother thereafter.

This idea of taking inventory has been brought to your child’s classroom, where they have been working to count and label baskets of supplies and materials. The discussion so far has focused on organizing in groups and skip-counting, then specifically on groups of ten. This week we will also work to deepen their understanding by packing the supplies in packs of fives and playing games that focus on groups of ten.

**Science**

We have been exploring and studying the Sun. The students participated in a science experiment to help them understand why the sun looks so small in the sky. We also learned what causes the day and night sky. We were also very lucky to have some fifth grade students visiting each first grade class to share PowerPoint presentations that they created about the Solar System.

**Spring Party**

The first graders will be making tie-dyed t-shirts for their upcoming spring party on **Tuesday, March 1st**. We will wear the shirts on our upcoming field trips. Thank you to the parents that signed up to volunteer at the party. We would love to have as many hands as possible to make each session go smoothly. Here is the schedule for each class:

1:30-2:00pm Mrs. Barzottini

2:00-2:30pm Mrs. Jacobs

2:30-3:00pm Mrs. Cabezas

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini

Allison Cabezas

Debbie Jacobs