First Grade News

February 22, 2016

Dear Parents,

It’s hard to believe that it’s already the end of February. Time flies when you’re having fun! Here’s our news for the week.

**Conferences**

Believe it or not, spring conferences are quickly coming up! Please fill out the conference preference sheet that is coming home in your child’s folder. Please note that there is only one evening conference designated for this round of conferences.

**Phonics/Penmanship**

The words for the week are: from, did, eat, teacher, kick. There will be a test on Friday. We would like to continue to encourage the students to practice sentence writing.

Last week we reviewed short and long vowel sounds. This week we are working on plural s (dogs). We will also learn that to make some nouns plural we need to add ‘es’. Words that end in x, ch, sh, s, ss, or z need an ‘es’ to make them plural (boxes).

**Reading**

At this point in the year, it’s obvious to us as teachers, the growth in our students’ reading development, and how it has positively affected them. In the beginning of the year, everything needed to be read to the students such as directions to complete activities, stories, labels, signs and the simplest things we take for granted. This of course caused the children to be dependent on us to understand what was expected of them. Now it is the most wonderful feeling as we see our students becoming more independent and taking pride in their autonomy. They read directions on their own, they read the calendar and know the date, they read around the school, and they read books all the time! In fact, they are willing to attempt to read anything and everything! It is so clear how their reading growth has increased their level of confidence, which ultimately has empowered them. The children see for themselves how learning to read enables them to be independent, self-assured and to feel more grown up!

Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin to assess each student’s current reading level. We are looking forward to sharing your child’s progress at their upcoming conference.

**Science**

Last week we compared the Earth and the Moon and found many ways they are alike and different. For example, the moon has no air and the Earth does. People can live on Earth, but not on the Moon. We also began to notice that shadows will be shorter in the middle of the day and longer in the morning and afternoon.

**Library Learning Commons**

During LLC time all 1st graders have been introduced to Dance Mat Typing. In order for students to practice typing skills we recommend for them to practice at home for a relatively short period of time on a regular basis.  This will be very helpful when we start typing our Author’s Tea books.

There is a link on the Virtual Library. No login is required. Your child is bringing home their progress sheet today which will guide you where to start at home.

**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

**Upcoming Field Trips**

Mark your calendars! We have two upcoming field trips this spring. Permission slips and more information will be coming home closer to the date. All parents are welcome to join both trips!

\*We will be visiting the Birdcraft Sanctuary on April 8th. Times are TBD.

\*We will be visiting the Beardsley Zoo on May 27th from 10:15-1:30. (Rain date is June 3rd).

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini

Allison Cabezas

Debbie Jacobs