

First Grade News

February 29, 2016

Dear Parents,
Happy Leap Day! Here's our news!

Social Studies

We would like to thank Alice's Mom, Dr. Marchi, for coming in to teach us all about her job as a dentist!

Conferences

Please fill out the conference preference sheet that came home in your child's folder last week. Please note that there is only one evening conference designated for this round of conferences.

Phonics/Penmanship

The words for the week are: **best, down, who, tell, made**. There will be a test on Friday. We would like to continue to encourage the students to practice sentence writing.

Writing

As we continue to learn about writing Reviews, we will now be shifting our focus to writing Book Reviews. Please see the information coming home in your child's folder today. Each student should bring in 2 of their favorite books to school tomorrow.

Math

This week we will be beginning unit 5: Measurement and Time. Please read about the unit below.

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

***This is a messy project so please dress appropriately!

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

**Math information is below.

Grade 1 - Unit 5

We are beginning Unit 5: Measurement and Time. This unit helps students understand what length is and how it can be estimated and measured. Students will investigate and measure length using a variety of non-standard units (cubes, tiles, dominoes, index cards, etc.). They will compare objects of different lengths to determine which is greater and they will order different lengths. Students will understand that the length of an object is measured by adding up smaller units. Students will tell and write time to the hour and half hour using analog and digital clocks.

Some examples of the work your child will be doing are: Students will estimate and measure objects in their world using non-standard measurement tools.

- Students will practice and develop accurate measurement techniques, i.e., knowing where to start and stop measuring, measuring without gaps or overlaps, measuring in a straight line.
- Students will compare events that have the duration of a minute and an hour.
- Students will tell time to the hour and half hour using digital and analog clocks. They will understand that we look to the hour hand for "about" time and the minute hand for precision. They will be introduced to the phrases quarter after/past, half past, and quarter til/of to describe time.

Example: 5:30 = five thirty or half past five

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

- Continue to practice basic math facts.
- Practice telling time on an analog clock. Keep your child focused on the hour and minute hands as he/she tells time.
- Let your child help you plan the daily schedule. Talk about the activities that will occur during the day and how long they will take. Help your child to be mindful of time in a practical way.
- Talk about the duration of minutes and hours in context. What takes about an hour? How many minutes will it take to... brush your teeth, walk down the hall, set the table, watch a commercial?
- Help your child to make a record of their typical day (e.g. what time she/he wakes up, eats breakfast, goes to school, has lunch, brushes teeth, etc.)
- Let your child measure objects around the house using non-standard units of measurement.
- Encourage your child to explain her/his thinking as she/he solves problems.

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://fairfieldpublicschools.k5math.wikispaces.com/home>