

April 25, 2016

First Grade News

Dear First Grade Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful week. We hope you can join us for the assembly on Friday, April 29th at 9:15. The first graders will be singing a special rainforest song.

Word Work

The new words for the week are: **school, house, good, won't, why**. Please help your child practice these words all week!

Reading

We are beginning to wrap up our Fairytales and Folktales Unit of study. We have talked about "Argument Talk Rules". We have stated an argument question and students have chosen a side. Students then had an opportunity to caucus with their side. They have named the evidence that supports their argument, and they have debated with their peers and decided what their BEST and STRONGEST evidence is! Wow, reading can be so much fun!

Writing

We are well into becoming authors of series books. Yes, your 6 or 7 year old will start to create a series of books. Don't worry, this doesn't mean they have to create forty books in a series, as the author of the Magic Tree House did! It means that once your child has invested some creative energy into a character, he/she can keep going with that character for a while, putting that character into new situations. We are also learning how to bring their stories to life by making their characters do something and say something. They have learned how to use dialogue tags to show strong feelings and how to use actions and gestures to show movement. Wow, we are taking on so much as authors and we love it!

Science

A representative from Roaring Brook came to visit us last week. He talked about the life cycle of frogs. We got to see some exciting different frogs, and we got to feed them meal worms! What a fun experience for the kids! We also got our very own tadpoles to keep in our classroom. We will observe them every day and write down our noticings. We would like to thank Mrs. Sweer for arranging Roaring Brook to come to our class and for all of her help that day!

The Beardsley Zoomobile is also coming to first grade on **April 28**. A representative from the zoo will be bringing live rain forest animals into each classroom for a one-hour presentation for the kids. We cannot wait!

Memory Books

Your child's Memory Book Assignment is coming home today in their Take-home folder. The memories are due back no later than Friday May 27th, 2016. Please plan on working on at least one memory a night in order to get it done. This is a very fun activity and your child will love receiving their book at the end of the year! However, waiting too close to the due date will cause a lot of unnecessary stress on your child. Please be sure that all memories are positive and send a "bucket filling" message!

Beardsley Zoo Field Trip

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

Author's Tea: Our annual Author's Tea will take place on **June 1st and 2nd** at **11:15-11:45**. We will be asking parents to specify which day is preferred to come into the classroom. We will be sending out your assigned day tomorrow. If we have not heard from you regarding your preference, please get it to us by tomorrow.

End of the Year Party: Our end of the year party will be on **Friday, June 10th** at **11:30**. All are welcome to attend. Please save the date!

***Reminders:** Please make sure your child arrives at school at 8:55am. Don't forget to tryout Extra Math and Benchmark Universe at home. You may visit the virtual library to get started.

Allison Cabezas
Debra Jacobs
Abigail Barzottini

