

First Grade News

September 19, 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful weekend!

Homework: Will begin soon, so please be on the look out and be sure to check your child's folder each night.

Reading Workshop

Reading Workshop is in full swing! The children have learned that strong readers have big responsibilities! They read pictures, they try to read the words, they notice details or new things when they reread their books and they are reminded of things when they read! The children love having Private Reading Time, in which they get to do all the things that strong readers do by themselves. We will be learning more about Partner Reading Time, where the children have the opportunity to pair up with a friend and sit side by side to read together. Some of our mini-lessons will focus on planning ways to read with a partner, taking turns making decisions with your partner, how to talk about your book with a partner and how to solve problems that may arise with your partner.

Writing Workshop

Our stories keep growing and growing and growing! This is exactly what grownup authors do! We add on! We say more! The children are learning that as authors:

- We choose topics and write what we know about.
- We think of a topic, touch and tell the story across the pages and then sketch across each page.
- We know that when we are finished, we have more to do.
- We go back and add more detail.
- We take care of our writing tools.
- We write words.
- We always say, "I'll do the best I can and keep going" (sketching pictures and writing words).

Math Workshop

We have been working on taking class surveys and turning the data we collect into graphs. We have also learned how to use math language (most, least, equal) to analyze these graphs.

Please check out the math wikispace:

<http://fairfieldpublicschools.k5math.wikispaces.com/>

We are really enjoying our September Number Corner. These are math workouts in the first month of school that focus on counting and recognizing numbers from 0 to 30, with a special emphasis on understanding that teen numbers are made of 1 ten and some more. Students use a wide variety of models that help them work in groups of 2, 5, and 10. We have been reviewing the concept of unitizing; that is, thinking of 10 items as a single unit called a 10. Wow, we are very busy with our September Number Corner!

Parent Readers Needed

Each first grade classroom will invite Parent Readers into the classroom on Thursdays from 3:00-3:20. This is a great opportunity to come into the classroom! We ask that you please make arrangements for younger siblings. A sign-up sheet is coming home in your child's Take-Home folder today. If you would like to be a parent reader, please return the form we are sending home today by **Friday, September 30.**

Important Notes

- Please remember to empty out your child's Take-Home folder every day. Check over his/her work with him/her every day. Read over any comments.
- Homework will always be due the next day, unless otherwise noted.
- Please send in **one** snack a day for your child. Snack is not meant to replace meals. Any more than one snack and we tend to run into important curriculum areas.
- Please send in a water bottle for your child. That way your child can get a drink whenever they wish. Water is the preferred drink!

Respectfully yours,
Abigail Barzottini
Allison Cabezas
Debra Jacobs