

## First Grade News

October 13, 2014

Dear Parents,

\*\*\*Please remember that conferences start next week. Your child will be coming home today with a specific date and time for your conference. We have made every effort to schedule your conference according to your preference. **Please complete the form and return it with your child as soon as possible!**

### **Phonics/Penmanship:**

We have started our Word Wall Words! These are words that the children will encounter almost every day as they read and write. So we want the children to be able to read and write these words in a "SNAP". They are high frequency words that the children should be able to read from sight and not by stretching them or sounding them out. Therefore, we introduce 5 new words on Monday and practice reading and writing them until Friday. We would appreciate your support with this at home. Many parents take these words and place them on index cards. They use the cards as flash cards and have their child practice reading and writing them. You can also ask your child to become "Word Detectives" and they can search for these special words in books! We will have a "word wall quiz" every Friday where the children will practice writing each of the five words independently.

**Tonight's Homework:** Please complete the word wall paper. Our 5 new word wall words this week are: **he, she, it, is, favorite.**

### **Reading:**

We are officially in the swing of things during Reading Workshop. The children have started to read books that are at their "just right" level. They will keep these books that they have personally "shopped" for in their book bins. When it is time to partner read, they take their book bins with them and meet in a special place to read together. We have also begun Small Group Instruction. This is a time when we pull small groups of children who are reading on or around the same level or who have similar reading behaviors. We use this time to teach more individualized lessons on decoding skills and comprehension strategies. The children will be able to take home some of their "just right" books and their book from their Small

Group Instruction group to celebrate for Reading Homework starting next Tuesday.

### **Math**

Last week all of our investigations focused on exploring the idea of doubles( $1+1=2$ ,  $2+2=4$ ). We are now seeing doubles in everyday life. When we go shopping at the grocery store, we can see doubles when we buy eggs, juice boxes or packs of water. Oh, what fun it is to explore doubles!

### **Science**

All first grade classes had a special visit from Audrey Sciuto, the Recycling Coordinator for Fairfield. She helped to teach us about what types of things can go in our recycling bins each week. She also showed us some of her wiggly friends that live in her compost bin. She showed us how easy it is to make a compost bin at home.

This week we will begin a new unit in Science called Living Things. As a part of this unit, each student will be growing their own lima bean plant. Every couple of days we will observe our plants closely for changes. We will then draw detailed pictures and take specific notes on the changes that we see. Throughout the unit the students will learn to use specific vocabulary to describe the parts of the plant (root, stem, leaves, flower, etc.).

Respectfully yours,  
Allison Cabezas  
Debbie Jacobs  
Maureen Rojee