

DECEMBER 6, 2011

GRADE 1 NEWS

Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Leggiadro, Miss McCee, Mrs. Rubeck, Mrs. Valendra



Literacy

Reader's and Writer's Workshop

We are currently working on our Narrative Genre Study. During Reader's Workshop, the students are learning to identify the elements of a story: characters, setting, plot, theme, problem, solution, and point of view. They will ask and answer questions about the text, make connections, make and confirm predictions, and make inferences to construct meaning. In Writer's Workshop, the students will generate ideas or topics for stories, use graphic organizers to plan stories, write drafts, revise and edit their stories, publish and present completed drafts, reflect and provide peer feedback on ways to improve their writing, and learn to use a rubric to check their own work.



Report Card Conferences

The parent/teacher conference provides us with an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, review your child's work and assessments, discuss curriculum, and answer any questions or concerns you may have at this time. These conferences are very important and we look forward to meeting with all of you.



Phonics

Long vowels: **a, e, i, o, u, & y.**

Vowel patterns: **consonant-vowel,**

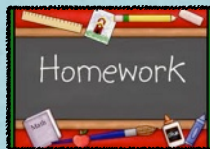
vowel-consonant-consonant

Digraphs: **sh, ch, th, wh, ph, ck, ng**

Vowel digraphs: **ie, ue**

Variant vowels: **al, au, aw, oo**

Diphthongs: **ou, ow, oi, oy**



Please help your child develop good study habits that will support learning throughout their school years. Homework needs to be completed and handed in daily. Please support and assist your child when necessary but do not do the work for them. Homework is meant to reinforce learning that has taken place in school and designed to develop independence and responsibility for your child. Please help us by checking the folder daily and responding to notices in a timely manner.

Mark Your Calendar



- Early Release Dates: December 6, 7, 8, 14, 23
- Conferences: December 6, 7, 8
- Book Fair: December 5-9
- Holiday Sing: December 7
- Holiday Recess: December 26-January 2

Math



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We are continuing our unit on *Visual Patterns, Number Patterns, and Counting*. As patterns with numbers are investigated, the children will look more closely at patterns found in odd and even numbers. They will observe patterns in the ending digits of counts by 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s. We will also continue to develop time-telling and money counting skills. Finally we will begin to work on addition and subtraction skills. Our upcoming unit is *Place Value, Number Stories, and Basic Facts*. Please continue to practice counting money, telling time to the half hour, and discussing the daily notes on the homework assignments to support your child's learning. Have fun!



Science

We are continuing our physical science unit on *Air and Weather*. The students have been participating in hands on experiments and discovery activities. They are learning about the properties of air using plastic syringes and tubing. They will observe how air can be captured and compressed and how air under pressure can move things around. We will observe daily weather conditions such as temperature, rainfall, cloud cover, wind speed and wind direction.



Social Studies

We are continuing our studies of communities. During the month of December we will discuss the different cultures, traditions, and celebrations of our families, and families and communities around the world. Please stop by and see our "Community Helpers" on display outside the first grade classrooms.



1. Conferences: We look forward to meeting with all of you this week.

2. Please send in the requested supplies for our gingerbread houses by Monday, 12/12.

3. Please send in \$9.00 for Charlotte's Web tickets.

4. Read with your child every day!

5. Practice spelling words and high-frequency words every day.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION!!
Please keep the home/school lines of communication open. We are partners in the growth and learning of your children and look forward to our continued work together throughout the year.

Self-help Skills

Please continue to work on the following self-help skills to foster independence and reinforce our efforts in the classroom: tying shoes, zipping, buttoning, cleaning-up, and remembering to bring folders, homework and snack every day.