

Grade 1 Monthly Newsletter: November 2014

The members of the first grade team hope that everyone enjoyed family time over the break and were not too bothered by snow or power outages.

We would like to begin by thanking all the parents who donated their time to chaperone the Children's Museum field trip!

We also appreciated the great conversations we all had with parents during scheduled conferences.

Reading Workshop continues to be differentiated within each classroom through small group instruction using a variety of fiction and non-fiction text. Some students may also be receiving companion assignments that will compliment their leveled reading material during Quarter 2.

Students are provided with supplemental reading material in each classroom and visit the library each week to choose "just right" books. It is important for first graders to choose books they can read. If a child picks up a book and makes more than 5 errors when reading any given page, they should choose another book. Challenging books are great for parents to read to students, however a "just right book" is one that students are able to read mostly by themselves.

Mrs. Page will continue to volunteer in Mrs. Faria's class until Christmas break. After the break, she will take her place in the next class.

Writers are expected to complete an illustration about something they did over the weekend and compose at least three sentences to accompany their picture, using proper sentence structure. Students also write important information in their journals, and participate in interactive writing activities.

Writing Workshop is also differentiated within our classrooms. If a student is proficient with the three-sentence requirement they will be

encouraged to add additional sentences to their weekly work along with extra credit writing as independent study.

We have been using temporal words for sequencing events during Quarter 2. Additional writing pieces will include a Children's Museum reflection, written explanations for Math strategies and Science observations.

Math continues with review and practice of the first five strategies for immediate recall.

We will also be concentrating more heavily on the student's ability to explain what a particular strategy means, in addition to immediate recall of facts.

Math computation, empty number line, place value and counting forward and back from 2, 5, and 10 will be reviewed and practiced. Math homework is reflective of ongoing review and practice within the classroom.

Although we continue to reinforce proper behavior using classroom and school wide rules, Social Studies has shifted to reading and discussing Time For Kids magazine. We read and discuss the magazine together with coordinating paperwork completed by the students.

In Science, we are learning more about and experimenting with magnets.

Spelling continues to be differentiated.

Word lists arrive home on Monday with the test each Friday.

Things to Remember:

1. Send in completed homework the following day.
2. Send back folders the following day after they come home.
3. If you do not see a folder on Friday, it means no notices needed to go home.
4. As the weather gets colder, please send in appropriate clothing for outdoor use.
5. Remember to get in touch with us with any concerns in order to clear them up quickly.

Sincerely, The First Grade Team