

Grade 1 Monthly Newsletter: October 2014

As October comes to an end, we are please to be able to reflect on the great work done by our first grade friends.

We would like to begin by thanking all of our room mothers and parents who took the time to organize, prepare and purchase food, send in treats and help out with our Halloween parade and parties. The children were so very excited to take part in this Pleasant Street tradition.

We all had a wonderful time!

Classroom rules and routines have been established and continue to be reinforced. Great behavior is expected in all school areas from the hallways to the cafeteria, from recess to specials.

We will continue to meet and greet each other during Morning Meeting and we know that doing our "best work" is what our teachers and parents expect from us.

Reading is 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 supplementai 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.

As you may have heard, Mrs. Page, our friend and retired Pleasant Street School teacher has begun visiting classrooms in order to provide reading enrichment for our students. She will do this on a rotating basis one day per week. visiting each first grade class over time.

We appreciate and thank her in advance for her efforts!

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, practice handwriting weekly and participate in interactive writing activities.

Writing 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.

During Quarter 2, we will be taking our existing writing foundation and will begin to sequence stories using a beginning, middle and ending, along with temporal words such as first, next and then.

As Math students, we have completed Quarter 1 assessments of the first four addition strategies and will continue to review and practice them as we begin to expose students to the next four strategies during the second quarter.

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 during Quarter 2.

Math homework is reflective of ongoing review and practice within the classroom.

Social Studies will continue to focus on building classroom communities and following school and classroom rules.

As scientists, we have completed our Animal research reports and are proud of our work. Fiction and Non-fiction texts were shared, Brain-Pop videos were watched, Interactive Writing was completed and students spent much Writing Workshop time making their writing and illustrations the best they could be.

At our culminating event, students shared their reports within the grade level and came back with many additional facts from the different areas of study. We are now experts on Bears, Skunks and Bats!

Spelling is now or will become differentiated within each classroom during Quarter 2. Two words are taken from the High Frequency word list, two or more from our weekly Spelling Principle and other words are taken from content areas.

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 get 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.**
- 6. Family Write Night: WHS, November 6th, 6-7**
- 7. Report cards home: November 7th**
- 8. Flu Shot Clinic: Kids: November 7th**
- 9. Parent Conferences: November 10, 2014/ Half Day**
*** Some parents have still not made appointments. We will be sending out our last available times for you to consider this week.***
- 8. Veteran's Day: No School, November 11th**
- 9. Walk to School Wednesday: November 12th**
- 10. CliF Spaghetti Supper: November 12th**
- 11. Field trip: Dover Children's Museum, November 13, 2014**
Picture re-takes
- 12. Thanksgiving Dinner, November 21st, 11-1**
- 13. Thanksgiving Break, November 26-28th**

We look forward to seeing you at Parent Conferences!

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team