

December 4, 2009

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

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Dear Families and Friends,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. I enjoyed our time together for Parent-Teacher conferences. I hope you found the information helpful. Next week you will receive your child's first report card. Please remember that the skills listed on the report card are end of the year expectations so it is not unusual to have first graders at a "Beginning" level of a skill especially in the areas of Reading and Writing as the children are at various levels of reading.

Next week, we will begin our 2nd Semester. This means that the children will once again be receiving French and seeing Mrs. Duggan for some whole class activities on Thursdays. We keep encouraging your children to return library books any day of the week as we know it can be confusing to keep track of these changes.

Readers' Workshop

Upcoming Events

Hand to Hand Sale will be on December 8th.
Report Cards will go home on December 11th.

During conference time we discussed how important it is for the children to develop quick recall of those basic sight words. If you need new lists of words please let me know.

The children are continuing to work on the reading strategies of reading on, using small word chunks or little words within a big word, and context clues (does it make sense) to decode unknown words. Our comprehension is also improving. The children are starting to make personal connections to the story events and the characters that they encounter in books.

Many of us discussed using your time at home to do Paired Reading with your child to help them make the transition to the next level of books if they are a little reluctant to take that next step. I have put a handout that you may find helpful in your child's Friday Folder to help guide you through this process if you'd like to try it at home. I hope you find it helpful.

Everyday Math

We have completed Unit 3 in our Everyday Math. Unit 4 will have us focusing upon Measurement. We will work with rulers and measuring tapes and learn how to measure in inches. The children will be reading and recording temperature to the nearest degree. If you have a thermometer at home please encourage them to tell you the temperature outside. We will also be introduced to the concept of quarter hour when telling time.

We will continue with our work of addition and subtraction and learning to have quick recall of our facts. They will be introduced to the concept of "Fact Power" which means if you know $5+5=10$ then it will help you know $5+6=11$. We will also continue our work on "Turn Around Facts" and "Fact Families".

Family Unit

The children have done a wonderful job on their timelines. Be sure to look for them in the hallway. Our personal books with the copies of our important events of our lives are coming together. I hope to have them all ready by the break.

During this unit we have also discussed how people's lives have changed over time. We are working on a class book titled, Long Ago. The children are creating individual pages of a book to show how people and children's lives were "long ago". For example, children long ago went to school in a one room school house. People traveled by horses or by walking because there were no cars or airplanes.

Other Important Information

Be sure you take a look at the wonderful pictures on the school website under our classroom link. The still life murals that the children created for COTS and the Salvation Army are featured. There is also an article in the Essex Reporter about their project.

The work and the cooperative effort by the children was amazing. A special thank you to the parents who were able to take time out of their busy days to help us was also appreciated. Mrs. Foley is a great inspiration to us all.

