

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

Susan Filipek

sfilipek@ccsuvt.org

Work: 878-1377

ext. 2529

Dear Families and Friends,

Thank you for finding time to attend Open House. It was wonderful to meet all of the children's families. I hope you found the presentation helpful

Our trip to Hackett's Apple Orchard was a lot of fun. Prior to the visit we discussed the changes apple trees go through during each season. We also tasted several types of apples to determine our favorite.

On Monday your children will bring home their Homework Folder. This folder should be sent back on Thursdays. Inside it you will find a list of their Word Study words. You may practice them at home. Sometimes the children enjoy typing them on the computer or even making them with magnetic letters. There may also be Everyday Math Homelinks that should be completed at home as well.

Give me a call if you need further information.

Upcoming Events

No school on October 22nd and 23rd due to Teachers' Convention

Readers' Workshop

We are continuing to practice how to look for word chunks in bigger words as one of the strategies for decoding unfamiliar words. We are also working on Word Family words so that the children will understand that if they can read a word like *will* then they can also read *still, fill, mill, chill...*

The children also are trying to be sure that they have three "just right" books in their book cubbies to go and read when they are finished with work. This allows them to practice reading old favorite books and at times even read books to their peers. This free choice reading time gives them practice with sight words and opportunities to develop better fluency.

Everyday Math

As we work on Unit 2 we have started to count by 2s and 5s from random numbers. We are also learning how to look at a table of information that was created for us and answer specific question about the information.

We have become much better at counting a mixture of nickels and pennies. Some of the children are very comfortable making coin Exchanges and showing a new way to show a given value of money.

I am starting to introduce some games that they will use throughout the year to practice their addition and subtraction facts.

Study of Plants

We are about finished with our Plant Unit. Some of the essential questions for this unit have been: How do plants meet their needs to survive? How does a plant change throughout its life cycle? How do the parts of a plant help it to survive?

As a final activity we may plant bulbs here at school or I may send them home with one or two bulbs to plant at home. In the spring we may revisit our plant unit as we may be able to do some more plantings outside.

Other Important Information

Soon we will start some activities around our Social Studies unit titled Families. Over the weekend, would you please find some time to talk about favorite activities that you as a family like to do. We will use these ideas in a Writing assignment.

Later on in this unit we will create a time line of our life. I hope the children will be able to bring in pictures from important times in their life. I will let you know in the weeks ahead when we will actually need these pictures. Thank you.