

The Fabulous First Grade

Ms. Tantillo, Ms. Sims, Ms. Moore, Ms. R. Bollini and Mr. G

Parent Newsletter – November 2017

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

Literacy:

Word Study

In November, students will be introduced to the short vowel sounds and apply the concept that consonant and vowel sounds can be blended together to form words.

Each week new sight words and high frequency words will be introduced. There is a spelling test at the end of each week. Students are responsible for knowing previous weeks and current week words!!

Reading Workshop

November theme A: "Becoming a Classroom Citizen". Readers will retell stories, including key details and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson. Social Studies content taught through literacy. Learners will explore content to understand how children contribute to a classroom community as "classroom citizens".

November theme B: "Becoming a Classroom Citizen," continued. Readers will identify a main topic and retell key details using the text and illustrations. Social Studies content taught through literacy. Learners will explore content to understand how children contribute to a global community as "child citizens."

Please continue to read daily with your child - encourage him/her to use print strategies to figure out difficult words, retell the story in sequence and ask questions about the text. Encourage your child to read more non-fiction. These books can be about true events and real people or animals.

Writing Workshop

Module A: Writers will formulate opinion and supply reasons for the opinion.

Module B: Writers will create an explanatory text including facts about a topic and some closure.

Math:

Unit 3 - Students will develop an understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20. Domain: Operations and Algebraic Thinking

"Children need models rather than critics."
-----Joseph Joubert

PTA News

PTA Meeting - 11/8

Save the Date - Holiday Fair 12/8

Technology:

During the month of November, your child will be focusing on both keyboarding and mouse skills as well as proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed.

What's New in Music and Art?

Ms. LaMorte: Students will analyze music (major/minor; duple/triple), learn 3 new pieces with focus on voting, Thanksgiving and rhythm notation, learn proper hand drumming techniques, and learn proper mallet hold for Barred Instruments.

Ms. Eliot: Students will revisit some favorite songs to review rhythms and movements with music.

*IMPORTANT DATES

11/7 - Election Day - No School for Students

11/9 - Parents as Partners Workshop: Addition and Subtraction Strategies, 7:25am

11/13 - Class 1-122, 332 St. George Library Trip

11/15 - Report Cards Distributed

11/15 - Evening Parent Teacher Conferences, 5:30pm-8pm

11/16 - Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:20pm-2:20pm

11/16 - Half Day - 11:20am dismissal time

11/21 - Class 1-121 St. George Library Trip

11/23 & 11/24 - Thanksgiving Recess - No School

News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please check your child's red dot notebook for nightly homework and school notices.
- **Please sign your child's homework every night.**
- Red folders, red dot notebooks and math books should be returned to school everyday.
- Any notes/letters to your child's teacher should **not** be written in their red dot notebook. Please write on a separate paper.
- **It is very important not to go ahead in workbooks as homework reflects work completed in class.**
- Please be aware that in first grade students are responsible for unpacking/packing their supplies. Encourage your child to unpack their red folders, red dot notebooks and math book. Discuss what homework is assigned for the evening.
- You and your child should be reading for 20 minutes each night.
- Dress your child appropriately for the weather. Keeping in mind that our classrooms get warm, but that it is getting cooler outside, layering works best.
- As always, please label your child's clothing and lunch boxes so they can be returned in case they get misplaced.
- As always, we are grateful for any donations of tissues, wipes and paper towels.
- Remember you have Think Central as resources for your child. This is a valuable tool when your child forgets their math book in school or is absent from school. It also contains additional resources that your child can participate in.

A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

November is a month to give thanks! I am so thankful for all of the parents who have supported our children so far this school year. We would like to say a big thank you to our PTA who organized this year's Halloween event "Boo at your School" for our Elementary School students.

This month we will be celebrating the importance of reading here at school, but reading at home is very important too. The benefits of independent reading include improved vocabulary, verbal fluency, and enhanced general academic achievement. This year, our school has partnered with MobyMax, a website that is designed to individualize student learning. This resource offers your child access to texts based on their reading level, practice with comprehension questions and tips and skills to master standards. This engaging website will motivate your child to read independently and build comprehension. Usernames and passwords have been sent home and teachers are monitoring students' usage at home and are encouraging it.

As Dr. Seuss says, "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you will go." I cannot wait to see all the places our children will go.

Sincerely,
Ms. Ponzi

