

# First Grade News

March 12, 2010

Some classroom news and updates...

## Science/Social Studies

This week we finished learning about maps, globes, and landforms in Social Studies. This week we continued to learn about different kinds of land and water formations such as mountains, plains, deserts, hills, etc.... Also, we learned about the compass rose. We learned about our cardinal directions...north, south, east, and west. We used these directions to move on maps. We created a map of our bedrooms and made a map key to identify the symbols. Next week we will start talking about mammals in Science!

## Writing

We have continued to work on expository writing this week. Our expository writing needs to include an introduction sentence, 6 facts/details, transitions, and a conclusion sentence. This week we continued to stress the importance of including transition words (first, next, also, after that, etc...) in our writing. For the next couple of weeks, we will continue to spend a lot of time on our expository writing and then we will move into Personal Narratives!

## Word Study/Word Wall Words

Last week: made, new, who, keep, can't

This Week: old, animal, big, just, rain

Next Week: zoo, time, came, off, every

We continue to practice our Word Wall Words daily. Further, we have continued our phonemic awareness program. These components to our word study will continue daily. During our Word Study time we have worked on handwriting, as well. Our class spent time on Jolly Grammar and Making Words during our Word Study. The Jolly Grammar discussed the "ou" and "ow" spelling patterns. These two patterns can make the same sound at time. Further, we completed a Making Words activity that worked on the "ow" spelling pattern. During Making Words the kids manipulate letters to make different words. They look for spelling patterns and observe how these patterns can transfer into other writing.

## Reading

This week we worked with fiction stories about animals. We discussed features that we find in fantasy stories and fables. While reading these, we continued to focus on the thinking strategy of Questioning. We have learned that good readers ask questions about texts before they read, while they are reading, and after they are finished reading a book. We have learned that good readers try to find the answers to their questions, and sometimes we have burning questions that we need to use other resources to answer. Further, we worked on reading with expression as we worked on a readers' theater. Our emphasis was on how our voice and expression sounds when we see a question mark while reading. We also worked on reading with appropriate rate. As you read with your children, try to have them visualize the text, summarize the story, ask questions, read with expression, and make connections with the text!

## Math

This week we started our *Geometry* unit. We identified plane shapes. We discussed the difference between the shapes (sides, corners, slanted sides, straight sides, number of sides, etc...). We worked to count corners and sides of the shapes. Also, our class discovered how to identify a square corner. We utilized Tangrams (math manipulatives) to make different shapes and pictures. We discussed the line of symmetry that is found in some shapes. Further, our class has continued doing work with math facts. The students should be practicing math facts at home, also. Thanks for continuing to spend time doing math homework with your child! Next week, we will continue our shape and geometry exploration!

## Quick Notes

- We went to our play on Monday and had a great time!
- As the ground is thawing, it gets very wet and muddy on the playground. It would be helpful if your child could continue to wear boots so their feet and shoes don't come back wet and muddy. Thanks!
- If you have photos of your kids reading *Georgie* with your family

please send them in with your name on the back in order to decorate the library entrance for our author visit on Friday, March 19th. Thanks!

- Next week begins another **food drive!** On Monday try to send in canned vegetables or fruit, soup, chili, and diced tomatoes. See the Weekly Agenda for other items to bring in each day. Thanks for sharing!
- March 26<sup>th</sup> is the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.
- Spring break is March 26-April 4. School will resume on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Report Cards will go home on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The ever anticipated First Grade Fishy Show has a date! The Fishy Show will be on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the evening.

I hope that you all enjoy the weekend!

Thanks for all that you do with your child! ☺

Sincerely,

Miss Clark

