Mrs. Watson’s Class News

September 28, 2015

 Edition 1

Our first few weeks have gone by quickly. We have been busy getting to know each other, as well as learning the rules and procedures of our classroom.

We have jumped right into the 1st and 2nd grade curriculum and I see lots of enthusiasm to learn new and exciting things this year!

Fall is here! What a beautiful start with a warm, sunny weekend! 

**Picture day is this Tuesday, September 29th! Order forms went home last week, but if you need an order form, please let me know and I can send one home Monday.**

NOTE: Whenyou read the newsletter the 2nd grade information is highlighted in green and the first grade will be highlighted in yellow. When there is no highlight it is information for both grades.

**We have enjoyed reading about their names and why they are perfect for them! If you have not sent in their name paper yet, please do so soon. Thank you!!**

**We just received our I-pads! We will begin using the I-pads in the classroom, adding technology to our curriculum! Don’t forget to send in headphones for your child as soon as you can. Thanks!**

***Homework Reminder:***

Homework is normally sent home on Mondays. It will include spelling words to practice. (They can use the suggested spelling activities that were sent home last week, but they DO NOT turn in spelling practice.)

Students are asked to send **all** homework in the **following Monday**. (except spelling:)

Math Homelinks should be stapled and sent in together. Do NOT work ahead. Please follow the assigned days for each homelink.

**Second Grade:**  Bi-weekly reading and writing assignments will reinforce the current week’s focus in class. The writing may have a focus or it may be about just ONE small moment story that happened to them that week. The expectation is one full page at this time and as we move into the middle of the year at least 1 ½ to 2 pages. The first writing assignment at home will be a descriptive paragraph.Look for the paper attached to homework news Monday.

**Curriculum Connection:**

 **Second Grade: In *Math*, we have reviewed sequencing and the number line. We have worked with money values and equivalencies, how to tell time on an analog clock, how to make a calendar, use a number grid, practice equivalent names for numbers, reviewed calculator use and explored counting patterns. We will finish unit one with comparing numbers using the greater than, less than or equal to symbols.**

 **We will begin unit 2 later this week. Please remember to read the Family Letter in the homelink book which provides detailed information about this unit.**

**Unit 2 focuses on addition facts, addition strategies, fact families, frame-and-arrows routines and “What’s My Rule?” routines.**

In **Writers Workshop**, we continue to work on our handwriting skills, adding punctuation and capitalization.![MCj04136380000[1]]()

 They are writing “Super Sentences” using adjectives and verbs to enhance their writing.

Last week 2nd graders wrote a friendly letter. They learned about the 5 parts to a letter and discussed how we can add “voice” to our writing to make it more interesting to the reader. When we express our feelings using many word choices this gives “voice” to our writing!

1st graders wrote to the prompt: **What is a pal?** They also are working to add “voice” to their writing. They are also practicing using labels to identify interesting details in a picture.

We discussed proofreading their work and learned which editing symbols are used to indicate no punctuation, capitalization, or missing a word.

***SSR (Self-Selected Reading).*** One of our favorite times of day. They are learning how to choose “just right” books. They enjoy reading and sharing what they have read.

In **Guided Reading, o**ne of the first things we did was to listen to the song “*What a Wonderful World*” and then they painted a picture of what they **visualized.**  These are hanging up in our classroom!![MCj04281130000[1]]()

We sequenced the events of the stories we have read, Chrysanthemum and Henry and Mudge. Second grade used a venn diagram to compare and contrast Camilla’s family in ***My Family***  to their own family. This week they will read Dogs an informational text. We will discuss the author’s purpose. We have also used the reading strategy “questioning” to increase our understanding of our stories.

First grade read the story *What is a Pal?* and we had some great conversations throughout the week about the story. We stated the main idea and found details to support it from the text. This week they will read *The Storm* a realistic fiction story. We will discuss the characters in the story and make predictions and inferences while reading. We continue to practice accuracy and fluency; reading as if we are talking by recognizing high frequency words. On Tuesdays, we “Dig Deeper” into the weekly Journey’s stories to analyze the text.

In **Grammar and Phonics**, we practice both the spelling words and high frequency words throughout the week. We discuss syllables of words and the CVC pattern (consonant, vowel, consonant). We have reviewed the short vowel sounds and will practice the long vowel sounds in the next few weeks. We have also practiced putting words in ABC order. Both grades also reviewed nouns.

 This week, 2nd graders will be learning about different types of sentences; statements, questions, commands, exclamations.

1st grade will be learning about possessive nouns.

Both grades are learning about and using the glossary in the back of our Journey’s books.

**Science/Social Studies:**

First grade has discussed how rules are important in our school community. They created a timeline of their school day after discussing that timelines must be in the order that the events happened.

They will begin their study of insects this week!

Second grade has planted a lima bean and they are growing really fast! They have learned about seeds in fruit and are writing in a seed journal. They are also learning about their communities and creating a map of Dodson’s playground.



Happy Birthday!

Erin Owens - October 1st

Muaad Lone - October 7th

Colton Freeman - October 15



Pizza Hut BOOK-IT! Refer to the Book-It letter being sent home later this week. This is a voluntary program that your child may choose to participate in. Their goals for each month will be to read 5 days a week at least 20 minutes each day, for a total of 100 minutes per week. When they read for 20 minutes or more they can color in that day on the reading calendar log and turn it in at the end of the month to receive a Pizza Hut coupon.