

First Grade News

December 11, 2017

Holiday Books and Traditions

Do you and your family have favorite holiday books or a favorite tradition/craft you would like to share with the class? If so, Please contact me and we can set up a time for you to visit our classroom and share with us. We would love to have parents visit and share with the class!

ACORD Food Pantry

We will be visiting the ACORD Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 19th. Please help us stock the shelves for the holidays: below please find a list of supplies needed to support the pantry. Anything your family can donate would be greatly appreciated. Coffee, cereal, meals in a can (chili, Chef Boyardee, beef stew, etc), peanut butter & jelly, tomato products (paste, sauce, diced, etc.), soup, grains (rice pilaf, couscous, quinoa, etc), condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo, salad dressing, etc) and baked beans. You can send in donations anytime between now and 12/19.

Classroom Volunteers

We would love to open our classroom to Volunteers beginning in January. If you would like to volunteer in our classroom please let me know and we will make sure you have everything you need before the holidays.

Volunteer Times:

Reading Block: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday (2:00-2:45)

Writer's Workshop: Monday, Tuesday, or Friday (11:45-12:15)

Science Investigations: Tuesday (10:35-11:25)

Math Block: Friday (9:00-9:50)

Volunteer opportunities will be first come first served, and we will only be looking for 1-2 volunteers per time slot.

If you have time, and you would like to help us in the classroom we would love to have you with us!

Literacy

Writer's Workshop is quickly becoming a favorite part of the day for some first graders: we are working on building stories around "small moments" from our daily lives and working on slowing down to remember the conventions of writing. We are looking for capital letters at the beginning of sentences,

finger spaces in-between words, punctuation at the end of sentences, and neatest handwriting.

During our daily Foundations' lessons we are practicing tapping for spelling and reading, writing closed syllable words, learning how to write dictated words and sentences. We have added digraphs, bonus letters and the welded sound "all" to our spelling rules.

During Reader's Workshop we have been reading personal narrative texts: during our study of personal narratives, we are exploring how stories are put together, the different elements of stories, and the features authors and illustrators use to tell their stories (patterns, speech bubbles, thought bubbles, multiple illustrations on a pages, or illustrations that are spread across two pages). During this time we also meet in small reading groups to practice targeted literacy skills, along with decoding, and comprehension. Alongside reading groups children work independently and/or in small groups to practice different types of reading as well as skills from Writer's Workshop and Foundations.

Math

During Math Block we are focused on numbers up to ninety-nine: we are working on comparing numbers, building numbers, and taking numbers apart. We are also working on counting larger quantities efficiently using Tens and Ones. We are just beginning to work with story problems using different mathematical tools and strategies.

Science

Science is quickly becoming another favorite time of the day for many children: since the beginning of the year, we have worked on Scopes studying Sound, Behavior of Light, and Communication. It was fascinating to see the children's faces when they made string phones and realized that they actually worked and that different materials made sound travel better than others. Our new science program is giving children the opportunity to investigate scientific phenomena in a way that is supporting new understandings and deepening understandings that were already in place. We are in the middle of a Scope based on external animal traits how they help animals survive.

Social Studies

We spent a lot of time at the beginning of the year thinking about community and citizenship. We are now beginning our studies of American Symbols with a study our American Flag.

