

Mrs. Oswald's First Grade News

October 4, 2014



This week marked our first (and last) “typical” week for the entire month!!! This month is full of excitement with our field trip, science day, fire fighter visit, days off of school and holiday celebrations! We will also be doing some end of the quarter assessments to prepare for progress reports and parent conferences!! Please note that the amount of “officially” assigned homework for your child may decrease a bit. This does not mean your child should not be reading each and every night at home. Please remember to make it fun! RazKids, books from home or even the public library can all provide great selections for your child to read on those days there is not a specific assignment.

We have continued to be very busy in the first grade classrooms. It is hard to believe that we have already seen the arrival of October. The holiday season will be upon us before we know it along with our Halloween parade and party. I have already had some communication with the parent leading the planning for this event so information will be coming your way before you know it!

This week we have really had to step back a bit and think about our actions during our read to self and work on writing time. These independent work times have been a struggle for several of the kids so we took some time to really focus on these two work times. We also addressed the need to remember our classroom rules with a focus on being kind in a variety of ways and making sure that we are taking care of ourselves!

In Writing Workshop this week we took some time to learn about “Watermelon” topics. These are topics that are too big for us to write about. As our focus is on writing about small moments of our lives, we have talked about these as “Seed” stories. We talked about some examples of Fall seed stories (jumping in the leaves, carving a pumpkin, baking pumpkin seeds). The kids keep moving through these books so it would be great to continue to have conversations about these small things that happen in their lives on a daily basis. Focus on all the details. We are trying to add details (who, what, where, when) as well as use transitional words to connect the events in our stories (First, then, next...).

The kids have discovered the addition of a new resource in our room. It is where we will be reminded of what we are focused on working on in different areas of

our day (our learning targets). We have posted and discussed our writing learning targets which are all very closely related to our writing workshop work we have been doing this first quarter. We are also still working really hard at remembering that sentences are started with capitals, ended with punctuation and should have appropriate spaces between words.

A conference sign up link was sent home earlier this week. Thanks to all of you who have already signed up! If you have not had a chance to take a look at the times available and/or sign up, please do this as soon as possible! I will be contacting those of you who are not scheduled in the very near future as these are mandatory conferences.

Our bunny is adjusting to life with 20 kids! Some families have already asked about bringing home the bunny. Our giant cage does not provide a good opportunity to do this just yet so I am still exploring some options to be able to make this happen. I will let everyone know when it looks like we are going to be able to start sending her home with folks! Right now, we are in DESPERATE need of the no/low dust kitty litter for her litter pan. We do not need “bedding” as she is litter trained. We will be needing in the near future some timothy hay and rabbit pellet food.

Current Classroom Needs -

- *Seasonal and Holiday 12x12 Scrapbook paper (for making books)
- *Seasonal and Holiday Stickers for sticker stories

Dates to remember:

- *10/4 - Book orders DUE online
- *10/8 - Firefighter Visit
- *10/9 - Lynd's Fruit Farm field trip
- *10/10 - Science Day and Kid's Night Out
- *10/15 - Gift Wrap Orders Due
- *10/16 and 10/17 - No School
- *10/24 - Report Cards Home
- *10/31 - Halloween Parade and Party (starting at 1:45)

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!!! Fall is DEFINITELY here!!