

Mrs. Oswald's First Grade News

September is here!



September 5, 2014

It has been another very busy (and short) week in first grade! The kids are doing a great job coming in on their own in the mornings and checking their morning schedule to complete these important tasks. We are continuing to learn new songs and activities during our morning meetings! It continues to be a favorite time of our day!

This week we continued our work on our "Read to Self" and independent "Work on Writing" time. Our biggest challenge during this time is remembering that it is not a time to visit with our friends and choosing that "best" spot to stay focused on our learning. We will continue to work on this as we are still completing our reading assessments to prepare for starting reading groups. It is my hope to be able to begin these groups by the end of next week. I will likely not start to send home the baggie books until early the following week. I will keep you informed about when this will happen as we get a little closer!

This week we took part in the first round of MAP testing. The kids were all very patient and tried their best with this computer-based test. The results from these will help guide our instruction and give us a better handle on where each child is right now and how we can best support all of their individual needs as learners! We will be happy to share more about these during our conferences in November!

Next week we will be starting with our writing workshop with some writing about small moments in our lives. To get us thinking about this, we read Ralph Writes a Story. It was a great book to get the kids thinking about all those little things in life that happen every day!!! As we start our workshop times, we will be more into the swing of our "regular" daily schedule which will be nice and definitely comforting for the kids knowing what comes next on a daily basis!

In math this week, we focused on writing our numbers correctly. I have several students this year writing their numbers backward. This would be an easy thing to practice at home. Our math homework pages are also providing practice with this! Please note that they have provided arrows which help the children know which direction the first mark should be going! Our math homework pages have also started coming home. At this time, I am sending home the pages as we get to them in our units. If you can please try to have your child complete these and return them the next day that will be best.

The parent volunteer forms were due today! If you were hoping to be included on our volunteer calendar, please send me an email with our availability. I will be creating our

first draft of this calendar so the volunteers can let me know if the time I have you scheduled will work. I am hoping to be able to start volunteers within the next few weeks or the beginning of October at the very latest!

I would like to remind everyone that our room does get a bit chilly and it would be a good idea to send a light jacket or long sleeve shirt for your child to wear if they get a bit cold. There have been several students pulling their arms into their shirts to warm up a bit this week.

The kids have been asked to put their snacks in their book bags. We consistently have had about 18-20 students packing their lunches each day. It is difficult digging through those lunch boxes to find snacks! Please help your child find a consistent spot in their book bag for them to find their snack easily.

There have been more cases of kids telling me they have an alternate plan for pick up at the end of the day. Sometimes a first graders version of this is not always the most accurate. If you could please remember to send me a quick email or note in your child's folder if their regular routine is changing it would be very helpful! I just want to make sure we are all on the same page about where your child is going each day!!!

Next week be on the look-out for some new login stickers on the back of your child's folder! These will be coming home for Mobymax and Xtramath!!! Two great sites for practicing math at home!

Important Dates:

1. Sept. 6th: Online book orders due
2. Sept. 10th: Picture Day
3. Sept. 11th: Late Start
4. Sept. 19th: Gift Wrap Sale Kick-Off

Please ask your child these questions to review their week!

1. What things do you need to remember during work on writing/read to self? (Sitting quietly, reading/writing the whole time, stay in one spot) - practice one or both of these for 10-15 minutes at a time.
2. What is a warm fuzzy? How can you give one to another person?

Have a great OX ROAST weekend!!