

Mrs. Oswald's First Grade News

September is here!



September 12, 2014

It was definitely a bit of a crazy week while we finished up with MAP assessments, had picture day fun and hopefully had a chance to sleep in a little with our late start! I know it was REALLY nice to actually get to experience one of our first days together with a "regular" routine!!!

This week I was able to complete our beginning of the year reading assessments and have started our reading group meetings. I will begin sending home baggie books for your child to read at home early next week! On a TYPICAL 5 day week, every reading group will meet and have assigned reading homework at LEAST 3 times a week. If there is a night that your child does not have assigned homework, your child should still be reading. They can choose a book from home, school or the public library to read for at least 20 minutes. Raz-Kids is also an appropriate choice for evenings that there is not assigned reading homework. The books the children are bringing home for assigned homework at this point in the year SHOULD be fairly EASY reading for them. They have read these books multiple times with teacher support and instruction. These books help the kids build their reading fluency, stamina and confidence in their reading abilities, which is crucial at this point in the year!

This week we launched into our writing workshop! This was an exciting time for our class and the kids all have so much to write about! We have started with writing about small moments. The kids are thinking about small moments in their own lives (first lost tooth, falling off a bike, ice cream falling off the cone, etc.) that they can write detailed stories about. We are encouraging the kids to tell these stories with the use of transitional words (next, then, finally). We also learned how we can plan our writing after we have a topic by using touch, tell, sketch THEN write. This helps the kids develop a plan and know what they were writing about if they have to take a break from a story and come back to it later or even on another day!!

I know that some of you are eagerly awaiting the moment we start our classroom volunteers. I am currently working on our volunteer schedule and hope to have this created sometime next week so you can take a look and make sure your scheduled times will work for

you. This schedule will come home to everyone so please let me know if you see a time/date that you can help or if you are scheduled and are unable to help on your scheduled date/time! We can always make changes!!!

Thanks so much for all the donations to cross off some of our wish list items. If you were unable to help out this time around, I will continue to add things to our website wish list to let you know of things that we may need throughout the year. This week we have added some book titles for our classroom read aloud times as well as regular decks of new playing cards (looking for about 4-5 decks) for the kids to continue to play some math games including our new "TRASH" game we learned this week!

Next week we will be celebrating "DOT" day which has been led by Mrs. Bova, our art teacher. Since Monday is our scheduled art day, I have told the kids it would be fun to wear dots that day to help with the celebration. THINK DOTS ON MONDAY!!!! We will also do some special activities in the class on Monday to go along with our celebration!

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!

- *September 19th - First Kids Night Out (6-9pm)
- *September 19th - PTO Gift Wrap Sale Kick-Off
- *September 26th - Author Visit (there is STILL time to place an order for autographed books - please have these to the school NO LATER than Monday)!!!**

Please ask your child these questions to review their week!

1. Play the TRASH math game with your child (they can teach it to you).
2. What small moment (or moments) did you write about this week?
3. What small moment is the book Night of the Veggie Monster about? (Eating a pea) What was your favorite part of the story?