



First Grade October Newsletter

October 8,
2009

HAPPY FALL

The first marking period will end on October 30th, and already we've witnessed an abundance of learning and growth here in first grade! We would like you to be aware of some of the upcoming measurement topics, as we continue to move through the curriculum.

In Math students will be able to:

Identify the number of objects in a set counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s.

Identify numbers that are one more than and one less than a given number (and/or ten more and ten less).

Identify a number that is in between any two consecutive even or odd numbers.

Create a set of objects that have more than, less than, or the same number of objects.

In Reading students will be able to:

Read unfamiliar words in instructional texts by using letters and word parts to blend and segment sounds.

Read sight words (word wall words) automatically.

Use before/during/after reading strategies to understand texts (e.g., determining importance, predicting, questioning).

Retell and sequence important events in texts using story elements.

Write a personal narrative using sentences in

logical order, providing details, and applying spelling, capitalization, and punctuation rules that have been taught.

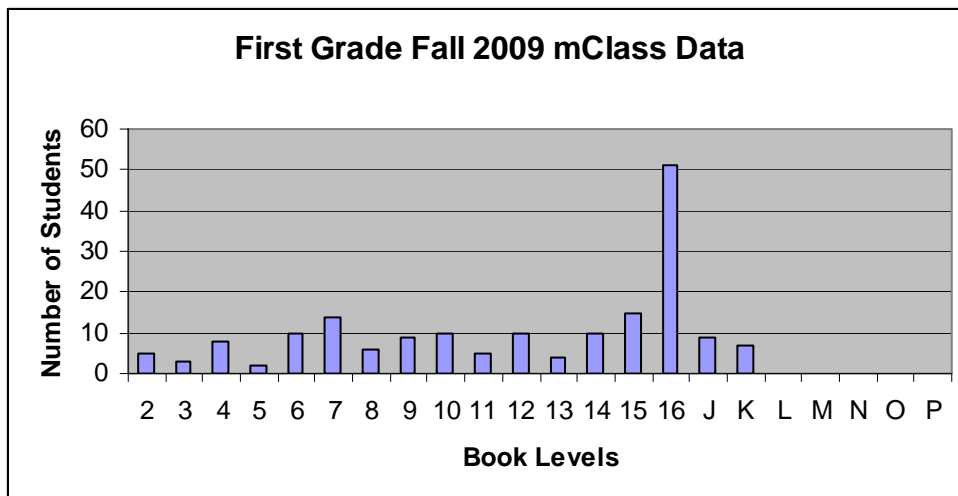
Important Dates:

- ♦ Saturday, October 10th - Fall Festival from 11am - 2pm
- ♦ Monday, October 12th - Open House from 9:00am-12:00 pm (Columbus Day)
- ♦ Friday, October 16th- No School (MD State Teachers Convention)
- ♦ Friday, October 30th-end of the first marking period



- ♦ Friday, October 30th- **Halloween Parade and Parties** in the afternoon (please return permission slip and \$5.00 cash to your child's teacher by 10/23. Permission slips went home earlier this week).

Reading Data



Social Studies (Government) and Science (Constructions)



**FOCUS ON
WRITING**



In Social Studies we are learning that people are citizens, and all citizens have certain **rights and responsibilities**.

We have created classroom "ground rules" in order to identify and explain **why rules exist** and why they are agreed upon and written down. In October, we will describe the contributions of people in **leadership positions** (like the President and Martin Luther King, Jr.), and we will identify and explain the meaning of **symbols of democracy** (like the Statue of Liberty and the Liberty Bell).



In Science we are learning about **Constructions**. We've been investigating different materials, people, shapes, and tools used in building to answer these questions:

- What materials are the strongest/best for building?
- What workers help to build a house?
- What shapes are the strongest?
- What tools are used in building?

*A great book to read at home is How a House is Built by Gail Gibbons.

As you can see from the "Reading Data" graph on the front, there are a significant number of first grade students reading on a level 16 text or higher. Please keep in mind that once students reach a level 16, **their instruction in reading focuses mostly on writing and written comprehension**. Therefore, you probably won't see a big jump in their reading level after they reach a 16, because they must now demonstrate complete understanding of a story by using details and support from the text in writing.

Reading and Listening Strategies in Our "Spotlight":

In Book Club, we are busy learning about all the good things readers do. We are focusing on strategies used before, during, and after reading. Some of these things include talking and writing about the elements of a story - **characters/setting/problem/solution**. When reading with your child at home, please be sure to have them retell the important events of the story by

identifying the **story elements**, and telling what happened in the **beginning, middle, and end**. Sequencing the events of a story is extremely important, too! In addition, your children are learning to distinguish between what's important and what's interesting. When sequencing a story, they should be focusing on the **important** things that the characters say and do. It is always

a good idea to have your child make predictions before reading, and answer simple questions after reading (who, what, where, when, why).

"Listening is an active, purposeful part of the communication process that goes well beyond hearing" (MD English Lang. Arts Content Standards).

The MEDIA CENTER is Open!

The media center is now open for book exchange! Books can be checked out and returned during **open book exchange every Tuesday and Thursday** (at a time the classroom teacher chooses to best suit instruction). In addition, each class will visit the media center for a lesson every-other week. This is another great time to

return and check out books.

The schedule for Media Center lessons, every-other week, is:

Wednesdays: McLeod

Thursdays: Halvorsen, Collier, & Fouché

Fridays: Moxley, Liu, & Grinham



PTA REMINDERS

- Sally Foster orders are due tomorrow, Friday, October 9th!
- The Box Top contest ends tomorrow, October 9th!
- The Fall Festival will be held here at school on Saturday, October 10th rain or shine