



First Grade Newsletter

Bannockburn Elementary School
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May and June 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Spring and Welcome Back! It is hard to believe we are already at quarter four of the school year. We hope everyone had a restful and fun filled spring break and is ready to finish the year with a bang!



Reading and Writing

In quarter four we will be learning to identify the characteristics of poetry and plays. We will be demonstrating our comprehension of literary text by identifying sensory words and comparing and contrasting character's experiences. We will identify differences between literary and informational text. Students will continue to identify text features in non-fiction text such as table of contents, labels, index, glossary, charts, and photographs. They will use illustrations and details in text to describe key ideas. In writing students will be using an object brought in from home and describe it using adjectives. They will also use their special object to write a couplet poem. Students will also be writing more paragraphs using the power writing strategy.

Science and Social Studies

In Social Studies students will distinguish between goods and services within a community. We will explore the purpose of different jobs and identify the services those jobs provide. Students will design a pretend community in cooperative groups and determine which goods and services are most important to them. We will also explore ways that different tools and forms of technology affect the way people live, work, and play. In Science we will be learning about electricity, how it works, and different sources of it. We will also look at human actions that limit and conserve natural resources. Towards the end of the unit we will brainstorm solutions and ways that we can protect our environment and conserve its resources.

* Dates to Remember:

- 5/01/11 May Fair 12pm-4pm
- 5/03/11 PTA Meeting 7pm
- 5/08/11 Mothers Day
- 5/13/11 Variety Show 7pm Whitman High School
- 5/25/11 Principal Coffee 9:30am
- 5/30/11 Memorial Day No School
- 6/1/11 Volunteer Appreciate Breakfast 8:15am
- 6/6/11 Field Day
- 6/15/11 Fifth Grade Promotion
- 6/16/11 Last Day Early Release





Math

Money is here and we are learning to count coins including pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Students will demonstrate their understanding that monetary values can be represented in a variety of ways. They will be solving addition and subtraction problems involving money through one dollar. We will also begin our study of fractions with an understanding that fractions represents parts of a whole. Students will read and write numerals, including those that represent common fractions. They will model common fractions using pictures, numbers, and fraction pieces. Students will identify fractions of a set of pennies and model equal shares. They will also learn the math vocabulary words numerator, denominator, halves, fourths, and thirds. Towards the end of the unit, students will recognize that real world problems can be solved using a variety of strategies and when these solutions are reasonable. They will estimate sums and differences of one and two digit numbers. As always, please continue to help your child master their basic facts in addition and subtraction. A great website to practice basic facts is www.aaamath.com.

Ideas for Summer Activities:

1. Keep a summer writing journal
2. Read a variety of text including magazines and newspapers
3. Count coins, play store
4. MASTER those addition and subtraction facts
5. Practice capitalization, punctuation, verb tense, nouns, and adjectives. Write a story and correct/edit it yourself.
6. Write friendly letters to classmates and/or teachers

