



First Grade Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Fall! Can you believe we have already completed the first month of school? Time sure flies when your having fun. Our Back to School Night was a hit and we appreciate your continued support.



Reading and Writing

Currently the students are learning to identify the four story elements of fictional text: characters, setting, problem, and solution. They will be completing story maps. Afterwards, we will begin a unit on nonfiction text. The children will be able to identify how fiction is different from nonfiction and will also be learning to identify various features of nonfiction text: table of contents, bold print, photographs, captions, labels, charts and graphs, and index. We will also begin to teach the students those strategies which good readers use before reading nonfiction; setting a purpose for reading, activating prior knowledge, and asking questions. In writing we will continue to focus on writing for personal expression. We are learning to use the word "I" to express ourselves and write stories about things that are happening in our lives.

Science and Social Studies

During the month of October we are continuing our study of rocks, sand, and soil. We will be looking at the sand and comparing it to rocks. We will also be observing worms and identifying how they live in the soil. We will look at different types of soil. There are many fun filled, hands on activities planned for the classes. We will continue our study of making rules and making decisions. We are learning about the difference between a rule and a law and the reasons we need both of them.

We will be learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and how to solve a conflict. We are also learning about who our government leaders are and to identify the symbols of our country.



* Dates to Remember:

- 10/01/09 Field Trip to Homestead Farms
- 10/2/09-Early Release Day
- 10/8/09—Walk your child to school day.
- 10/12/09—Open House (Columbus Day)
- 10/16/09-No School for students-MSTA Teachers Convention
- National Bus Safety Week
- 10/30/09- First marking period ends