

First Grade at BES

November and December 2011

Important Dates

Nov. 22, 12:30
Thanksgiving Feast

Nov. 23 Early Release

Nov. 24-25 No School,
Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2 Native
American Artist in
Residence Storytelling

Dec. 5-9 Inclusion
Week

Dec. 6 Green Hawks
Assembly

Dec. 24- Jan. 2
Winter Holiday Break

Math

Word problems and place value have been our focus the last several weeks. We will continue solving addition and subtraction word problems. Some of these problems have an “unknown” that we have to figure out. We’re practicing how to describe 2-digit numbers as amounts of tens and ones. We use math manipulatives that help us understand place value.

Reading

Your child has been learning how to identify the main topic in informational texts and the key message in fictional texts (as well as the setting and characters). We’ve been learning how to use different affixes or word endings (-ing and -s) and long vowel sounds in words with “final -e.” Also we’re learning different parts of speech (adjectives and verbs). We continue to have collaborative conversations as we discuss the texts.

Inclusion Week

December 5-9

During “Inclusion Week” we will talk about how we can all be “includers.” We’ll do different activities like poster-making and a thumb print activity, as we discuss our similarities and differences.

Social Studies

Over the last few weeks, we’ve been talking about the meaning of culture. We are looking at the similarities and differences between cultures: food, shelter, clothing, traditions and customs.

Writing

You may have heard your child talk about our “Tiger Books” that we’ve been working on together. We’re writing “All About” animal books. These books are divided into sections or chapters, as we focus on different ways to describe our animals. We will continue to work on writing complete sentences with proper punctuation.

Science

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we will revisit how to classify foods into the food groups. Later on, we’ll dive into the concept of motion. We’ll describe changes in motion, as well as look at how magnets affect other objects. In addition, our composting project is “rolling” along. We will be turning our compost tumbler three times a week to keep the contents decomposing.

Helpful Hints

*Please remember to check your child’s Take-Home folder every day. Many important papers are inside.

*Also please remember to send back the report card envelopes signed on the outside.