

# FIRST GRADE NEWS

## OCTOBER 2010

Dear Parents,

October is always a busy month in first grade!

We are **reading** everyday! In all of the first grades, we start the year doing daily word work on high frequency words (words that appear in text frequently). You might see many papers coming home using these important words.

Whenever your child brings home reading word work, it would be helpful if you have them reread the paper to you. This is another type of reinforcement to support your child in learning their high frequency words. Our work with poems and the poetry notebooks is another way that we work to learn the high frequency words. If children learn a bank of the high frequency words, it helps them when it comes to reading in the leveled books. These words serve as 'anchors' (words they see that they already know) in the sentence. The other unknown words they come upon can be figured out using their phonics skills and guessing what might make sense (using meaning). Your child's reading group books (leveled books at their own ability) will be coming home so that they can read them to you.

In Math, we are continuing Unit 1. We are working hard on solidifying their understanding of addition and subtraction word problems. These tend to be one of the hardest math concepts for children to attain. The children need ongoing practice at home using the strategies that have been taught in class (i.e. drawing a picture, writing a number sentence, create a model with counters, using a number line or making a chart.)

We enjoyed seeing you at Open House on Monday, October 11th. We hope you enjoyed seeing your child working on their reading and writing.

Halloween is almost here! Brooke Grove traditionally has an outdoor parade with parties afterwards. This year it falls on Friday, Oct. 29th. The parade will start at 2:00 p.m. and the class parties will start after the parade. An alternate activity will be provided for the students whose families do not celebrate Halloween. Please let your child's teacher know if your child will need to participate in the alternate activity. All costumes should be nonviolent in nature and should not include any type of weapon. Thank you!

Just as we enjoy the Fall weather and the changes it brings to our lives, we also enjoy the never ending changes we observe daily in our first graders as they grow and learn.

Please remember that there will be no school on Monday, November 1st for report card preparation.

Happy Fall !

The First Grade Team

Mrs. Tepper, Mrs. Fite, and Mrs. Oxman