

# FIRST GRADE NEWS

Cloverly Elementary School  
Leading the Way to Excellence!

Volume 1, Issue 1  
October 2011

## FIRST GRADE NEWS

It is hard to believe that October is already here. All the students have adjusted well to all the new routines and switching of classrooms for academics.

### Reading

First graders are very busy this quarter during reading instruction! One focus this month is learning about story structure. Your children will be asked to identify characters, setting, problem, and solution of stories they have listened to or read independently. Students will also work on retelling stories and writing about these important story elements. We are also learning about the difference between fiction and informational texts. Students will learn how to retell important facts from non-fiction books. They will also be able to identify and use text features like labels, bold print, table of contents, and an index to learn about a topic.

Guided reading, or small group instruction, will focus on decoding unfamiliar words, reading fluently with expression, learning new vocabulary, making predictions, and answering simple questions (who, what, where, when, and how) in writing. Please listen to your children read the books that come home. Praise their efforts and feel free to ask questions to support comprehension. (Who are the characters in this story? What was the problem and how was it solved?) You can also help your child to make connections between what they read and what they have experienced. We thank you for your support in this area.

### Writers Workshop

Each day student's are hard at work writing to inform/explain using a topic sentence, supporting details about the topic and provide some sense of closure. Students are focusing a lot on their CHUPS (Capitalization, Handwriting, Usage, Punctuation, and Spelling). And, they are learning the art of the writing process (prewriting, first draft, revising, editing/proofreading, and publishing). Be sure to stop by to checkout their fabulous writings on the outside boards and within the classrooms.

At home, you the parent, can help support the writing process by having your child write about their day or write short stories that include simple and compound sentences. When spelling your child should focus on spelling sight words and words that follow a beginning phonetic concept correctly. **Happy writing!**



### Math

Throughout the year, students will be learning to apply concepts and skills to solve problems, communicate and reason mathematically, and make mathematical

### Some dates to remember are:

- October Parent Volunteers begin
- Oct. 5 Academic Night 7pm
- Oct. 10 Open House 9:30—11:00
- Oct. 21 **No School**
- Oct. 28 Halloween Parade and parties (parade begins at 1:30) and first marking period ends

connections. During September and continuing into October, students will strengthen their knowledge on the following concepts.

\* Counting, using a variety of strategies, to identify the number in a set and numbers that are 1 more than, 1 less than, and between two numbers. Also, identifying a number ten more and ten less than a given number.

\* Add and subtract numbers using counting strategies such as using a number line and /or sets.

\* Compare 2 digit numbers by using the  $<$ ,  $>$  or  $=$  symbol.

\* Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories.



### Social Studies

At the beginning of the school year, your child learned how a political system worked when we determined how and why rules exist, why they are written down, and how they are interpreted. As an entire first grade class, we met together to make classroom rules along with discussing and deciding what a student's job, teacher's job, and parent's job is in helping support the learning process.

We have and continue to read about and discuss the purpose of, and the difference between, rules and laws. Why rules and laws are agreed upon and written down, and the role of cooperation in contributing to the well-being of a community. Students are also learning about contributions of important leaders. We often use our wonderful Social Studies books to help support our learning.

### Science

We are enjoying learning about the characteristics of living things. Students will compare plants and animals based on observable features and basic needs. At home you could support your child's learning by going on nature walks and observation the wide variety of plants and animals that live in our community.

### Volunteers

We are excited that so many parents will be volunteering to help out in our classrooms. Some days you may be asked to photo copy, help make a bulletin board, help inside the classroom, or work with individual students. When working with students we ask that you respect the students and do not share information about individual children beyond the classroom setting.

*"A journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step"*

*- Chinese Saying*

### Don't forget:

Math homework is given out on Mondays and Wednesdays and reading homework on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reading books may come home Monday-Thursday. **Please check your child's Homework folder and sign your child's "Caught You Being Good" chart EVERY NIGHT!**

With the weather changing, please have your child dress for the weather. A great idea is to layer their clothing. It may get warm in the classrooms, but when they go out for recess it may be cold.

Show interest in what your child is doing in school by reviewing their work with them and asking about their day.

Set high expectations for your child. Make it clear that school should be his or her first priority.

Help your child with his or her homework. Have your child read to you EVERY NIGHT!

And, please do not forget that the First Grade team appreciates all of your support!

