

THE TERRAPIN TIMES

First Grade, November 2009
Sargent Shriver Elementary School
301-929-4426

Our First Graders are practicing daily routines, many without the help of their teachers. Homework has become a regular part of their routines as well. Thank you for helping your child to become a responsible learner.

We continue to focus on independence and problem solving this month. Listening and talking are two things we will also continue to practice. We have been sharing our thinking in math, reading and science, listening to each other, and retelling what we hear. Here are some more specific areas we will explore this month:

Reading/ Language Arts:

- Reading to be Informed
- What to do Before, During and After reading
- Making predictions
- Asking questions during a story
- Retelling
- Decode words in on grade level texts
- Non-Fiction text features
- Exposure to various kinds of non-fiction material including newspapers, magazines, textbooks, etc.
- Capitalization at the beginning of a sentence
- Using high-frequency word wall to assist students in writing
- Writing for Personal Expression
- Writing to be Informed

Math:

- Non-standard linear measures
- Personal foot and standard foot
- The Inch
- Measuring with a tape measure
- Base Ten-Blocks
- Telling time on the hour, half hour and quarter hour***

Science:

- Rocks, Sand, Soil

Social Studies:

- Geography: Changes in the way we live
- No Put-Downs

Parent Tip: Telling Time on an Analog Clock

Help your child learn to tell time by comparing what the hour hand and minute hand are doing. Practice telling time with your child, paying close attention to where each hand is at any time. (For example, for 4:30 the hour hand is between the 4 and the 5, or halfway past the 4, and the minute hand is on the 6, or halfway around the face of the clock.)

November Events: :

November 11 and 12 – Parent Conferences

November 20 – Field Trip to the Museum of Natural History to study rocks and fossils

We look forward to seeing you for our **Parent Conferences**. Please let us know if you can attend. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to share their best practices with each other and help the success of the children.

Your presence at Shriver is very important. We need your help to keep **school visits** safe and organized. We are glad you have you visit our classrooms or come in for a conference throughout the school year. There are a few times when visiting is not appropriate. For example, your child might be taking a test or working with another teacher.

If you would like to visit your child's classroom:

- Make an appointment with your child's teacher.
- Sign in and get a sticker in the office.
- Check in with the staff there. They can verify that it is a good time for you to visit.
- It is difficult for us to accommodate younger siblings and continue instruction effectively. Please arrange to visit without them.
- Please arrange an appointment with your child's teacher outside of class time if you would like to **conference** with her about your child. It is difficult to speak with you during instructional time, and we would like you to have all our attention.

We thank you for helping us teach your child,
-The First Grade Team