



First Grade Newsletter January/February 2012



Dear Parents:

Happy New Year! First grade has been working very hard this year! We have been very busy in all of our subjects, as well as writing in our journals. We will be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., and other famous African Americans as well as President's Day in February.

Reading:

Reading Initiative is still in progress. We have all improved our reading word recognition skills and we are still working hard on comprehension. We will continue to practice our word attack strategies and phonics work.

To help your child with comprehension, it is important for you to ask questions related to the stories on a daily basis. Some examples of the questions would be:

- What is the main idea of the story?
- How do you know that?
- What is the setting of the story?
- Was the setting an important part of the story?
- What was the problem in the story?
- How was the problem solved?

In order to help strengthen your child's writing skills, it would be helpful for you to have him/her answer the above mentioned comprehension questions in written form regularly.

Writing:

Journal writing remains an important part of our program on a weekly basis. We are continuing to work on writing sentences using correct punctuation and capitalization. We will be working on expository writing and introducing opinion writing as well. The students will continue to gain exposure to the 6 traits of writing, with extra concentration on ideas, organization and word choice.

Spelling:

Do not forget that our spelling program is a 2 week cycle. Please help your child study their spelling words each night.

You can find the spelling lists at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/wyngatees/classrooms/grade1/>

Math:

We have covered many math areas and we continue to work through our new math curriculum. We will continue to work on place value, word problems in addition and subtraction. We will also be solving problems with missing addends. In the 3rd quarter (starts at the end of January) we will be working on linear measurement. Remember to keep practicing those basic facts. **Flash cards really help!**

Social Studies and Science:

For Social Studies, we will continue to work on artifacts as well as cultures in different countries. We will be looking at physical characteristics of land: climate, vegetation and animal life. In Science, we will be exploring materials things are made from, objects in motion as well as magnets.

Special Dates and Events:

January 16th - Dr. King's holiday, No school

January 20th -End of 2nd marking period

January 23th -Professional Day- No school

January 31st: Field Trip to Adventure Theater: details coming!

February 1st - Report Cards Distributed

February 14th - Valentine's Day parties

February 20st - President's Day- No school

The First Grade Team

Mrs. Fitzgerald

Ms. Laird

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Puckett

Ms. Veith