

First Grade News

December 2017

First grade is learning that when we as readers come to hard words and tricky parts of books, we try harder and harder. We are learning how to tackle tricky words, recognize words patterns, sounds and snap words to help us read. We are working with our reading partners as independent readers to check and fix words when we notice something is not quite right.

Our next Writing unit will focus on writing "How-To" books. During this next unit first graders will be the experts. This will entice and motivate students to share their area of expertise by writing an informational piece. We will immerse ourselves in literature, videos and multi-step tasks in class. As writers, we will challenge ourselves to write our own "How-To" books by giving directions in order to complete the steps of whatever we are trying to teach the reader.

In **Science** our students are continuing to learn about animal adaptations and inheritance. We have discussed how animals camouflage as a way to protect themselves and allow their species to continue on.

In **Social Studies** we are comparing and contrasting families now and families long ago. We are discussing transportation, buildings and education. We are also discussing how families have different traditions.

In **Foundations** we have started Unit 4 which focuses on the bonus letters ll, ff and ss. Examples are *miss, huff* and *pill*. They will also learn about the glued sound -all in words such as *ball, call* or *tall*. The trick words for this unit are: *you, your, I, they, was, one* and *said*.

In Math we are starting Unit 4 which concentrates on subtraction strategies such as counting back, breaking apart and thinking addition to subtract.

Our next unit in the Sanford Harmony program will help our students develop emotional understanding. This includes feelings and identifying their causes and consequences. First grade will predict and explain feelings, relate to thoughts and behaviors, and will understand that people can change. This will be taught through activities, role playing and working together in partnerships.



Reminders:

- School will be closed December 25th-January 1ST for winter break.

December 8th - Fun Friday

December 13th - Math

Workshop 8 a.m. Room 333

Our Trip to see the Multicultural Holiday

Show is on December 14th.