

FIRST GRADE INFORMATION

Friday, November 6, 2009

'Listen' to all we've learned this week...



READING:

- Phonics: This week we learned about a new vowel, short Uu (“u” as in umbrella). We learned a poem to help us remember the sounds, worked on chunks – ug, -un, -ub, -ump, -uck, -unk, and -up.
- Next week we will continue to study vowels and focus on the sounds of “Ee” (“e” as in elephant). We will learn a new poem to help us remember the sounds of “Ee”, and we will write lists for the chunks –et, -en, -ed, -est, and –ell.

WRITING:

- Recently we integrated our social science unit into writing and had a great time writing about “*monsters*.” We wrote stories about monsters and made monster bags with descriptive books on the back. Fun!
- We continue to enjoyed working on our own little books. We continue to encourage their ideas, help them grow in learning to write with more detail as well as write using the conventions author use. They are excited! Be sure to ask them about their projects. They are so proud. We applaud their efforts! If you have an interesting event at home that you feel would make a good topic for a piece of writing, please encourage your child to use it in their writing.
- Next week we will work on our next trait of writing: organization! Students will learn different ways that authors organize stories (such as circle stories and ABC books). The students will also learn that good stories have a beginning, middle, and end and will begin to apply that to their own writing.

WORD WALL:



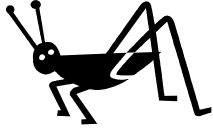
- This week: (Review week for weeks 4,5, and 6)
- Next week: Week 7- will, with, big, little, go, this

MATH:

- We worked very hard solving Halloween problems! We worked on ordering Halloween characters based on clues given in the our problem-solving. We had fun applying what we know about math into our Halloween activities!
- Next week we will begin our first addition strategy! The strategy is called “Count On” and works when adding 1, 2, or 3 to a number. Keep your ears open for our special poem that helps students remember the steps to counting on. Also, flash cards will be sent home next week. Keep practicing!

SCIENCE & SOCIAL SCIENCE:

- This week we looked to the sky and observed how the sun appears to change positions in the sky. We learned about the value of the sun in supplying us with warmth and light. We tracked the daily temperature for the week and will compare it to a future week's temperatures in winter and spring.
- Next week we will continue to examine living things and observe what makes them special. Our special guests are **CRICKETS**. We will look at their environment, examine their body parts and talk about how these body parts enable them to do move in such exciting ways. Your children are excited about having them visit. We hope we get to hear them sing!



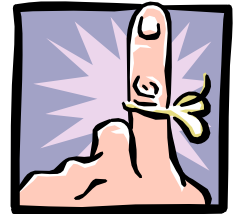
QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD:



- What did they enjoy about “monsters” in our stories we read in the classroom?
- Does the sun really move in the sky? How do we get day and night?
- What sound does short Uu make? Long Uu?
- What are some words in the –ub chunk? What are some words in the –ump chunk? The –un chunk?
- What games did the class play at the Halloween/fall party?
- What were the coolest costumes they saw at the Halloween/Fall parade?

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Veteran's Day Assembly, Wednesday, November 11th
- **Report Cards go home Wednesday, November 18th**
- NO SCHOOL Wednesday, November 25th through Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving weekend.



ADDITIONAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

- We had a **great** time at our Halloween parties! Thank you for following the guidelines set by Dr. Bockman regarding the Halloween costumes and procedures. We hope your children had as much fun at the party as the teachers had seeing the students in their costumes! We would like to say a special thank you to the room parents that helped with the day's activities. The food was delicious and a special treat for your students. You helped make the parties a success!! Thank you for all of your hard work and time.
- On Friday's when the **red poetry binders** come home, we hope that you will spend 10-15 minutes reading some of the poems and stories with your children. Rereading these poems helps your child build fluency and gain confidence in their reading ability. We do not expect that your child can read all of the poems in the binder. We hope that you will partner read and choral read with your child, however. They love doing this at school and the more times they read the poems the more confident they become!!!