

First Grade News

Mrs. Neilander

January 10, 2020

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy holiday with your children. As we get back into the swing of school, our regular homework and spelling schedules will start up again next week. All those that learned how to tie shoes earned their rainbow shoelaces today. If your child cannot do this yet, I will save them and let them retest whenever they are ready. Just have them let me know when they would like to try again.



Author of the Week

Jan Brett

Phonics

We have been asked to “pilot” a new phonics program that the district is considering using throughout the schools next year. It correlates with the reading program that we already use. Instead of worksheets, the program focuses a lot on sorting and writing words using certain phonetic qualities. Because we have already started our VOWAC Spelling program, I plan to use it in conjunction with the new program for the rest of the school year.

Questions to ask your child:

- *What is your New Year’s goal for you at home?
- *What is your New Year’s goal for you at school?
- *Can you tell me the parts of a good personal narrative? (topic sentence, 3 detail sentences, a conclusion)

mark your calendar

*Next Wednesday, January 15th is a late start day. School will start at 10:20.

*There will be no school on Monday, January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



we are learning

Reading

Sight words are an important part of reading progress. These are the words that appear frequently in children’s books and often don’t make phonetic sense. We have been using the yellow lists of words in book bags as a way of studying and learning sight words. As the lists progress, they quickly get more difficult. I am encouraging the students to slow down and memorize the word lists so that they can recall them quickly in text. I would rather have them take time to really memorize each word and keep the same list for two or more weeks than to quickly pass the test, progress to the next level, then forget the basic words. The words are assessed every Wednesday.

Writing

This week we began using our writing dictionaries to help with spelling. Each child received a small paperback dictionary containing many words children commonly use in writing. It is arranged in alphabetical order and has many empty spaces for adding new words.

math ⁺²/₄

Our Math unit continues to explore different ways to solve subtraction problems through 20. We worked with “Math Discourse Partners” this week. Each child has a math partner (another student in our class) that helps them review and discuss word problems after solving them in our math journals.

Math Questions to ask your child:

- How does knowing that $17 - 10 = 7$ help you solve $17 - 9 = ?$
- Can you solve this problem by taking from 10? Can you solve it by counting on? Which strategy do you like best?