

In math students are working on many areas of improving number sense such as estimating, counting, subitizing, finding different combinations of numbers, identifying ordinal positions, and finding one or two more and less of a number. In writing students are continuing to write personal narratives (stories about events in their own lives.) We are learning how to correctly form letters and place them on the line, realizing that some letters have “tails” that hang below the line. Students are being reminded to put spaces in between words and use lower case letters within words. Students are encouraged to stretch words (like a rubber band) in order to spell words by hearing the individual sounds. Perfectly spelled words are not the goal at this point. Our literacy focus has been learning sight words and strategies for figuring out how to read unknown words such as use picture clues, get your mouth ready by making the first sound, and looking for familiar chunks in words. We are learning how to preview books and set a purpose for reading to “warm up” our brains before we actually begin reading books on students’ instructional level. We learned that real reading involves active thinking and using our schema (all that we have gained from past experiences). During upcoming read-alouds students will be activating prior knowledge in order to make predictions and generate new learning that can be “stuck” to what we already knew about various topics.

We are mid-stream in our first science unit on seasons. We will integrate literature, math and science this week by reading various stories (fiction and nonfiction) about apples, seasons, and trees and doing an apple investigation in which we will observe, describe, weigh and measure our apple. We will do a taste test of various apple products, take a survey of our favorite, and then create various types of graphs to represent our data which we will then analyze. Students will also have the opportunity to do some related writing on the topic.

The next 5 weeks our class will be participating in drama, music, and gym for our daily specials. They will rotate each day in that order. Since a regular library class is not included, students will be allowed to visit the library in the mornings before instruction begins. First graders can also participate in open gym every Tuesday mornings until 7:45.

Important Upcoming Dates...

- Oct. 6 Fun Run/Fall Dance
- Oct. 12 End of First Quarter
- Oct. 13 No School/Teacher Work Day
- Oct. 16 No School/Professional Development Day
- Oct. 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:45-7:00
- Oct. 26 Field Trip to Marker Miller Orchards --Please return the orange permission

form asap. The cafeteria needs a lunch count for how many packed lunches to order and make. You can wait till closer to the trip date to send in the \$7.