

First Grade Happenings

OCTOBER 8, 2018

Dear families,

Put your seatbelt on, because it's October, and we're kicking into high gear! This week is Spirit Week, the Fall Festival is this Friday, we are holding parent-teacher conferences, the Book Fair is coming to town, and we are going on our first field trip on the 30th. By the time this wild ride is over, it will be the end of the first quarter!



REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 8 - Signed Field Trip Forms due (sent home last Friday)
- Oct. 8-12 - Spirit Week (see below)
- Friday, Oct. 12 - Fall Festival, St. Mary's School, 5:30-7:30
- Oct. 15-19 - Fall Book Fair at Quail Ridge Books
- Oct. 30 - Sweet Potato Gleaning Field Trip, 9:30-12:30 (information in separate letter)



SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, October 8
WILD About Global

Tuesday, October 9
Dreaming of Peace

Wednesday, October 10
Collaborate & Communicate

Thursday, October 11
Help Others

Friday, October 12
Wiley Pride

WHAT TO DO

Wear wild hair and/or wacky outfit

Wear your pajamas

Wear your team colors or apparel of your favorite sports team

Wear a superhero costume and bring canned food to donate

Wear your Wiley tshirt and go to the Fall Festival

1ST GRADE FIELD TRIPS

October 30, 2018 - Sweet Potato Gleaning

November 16, 2018 - Morehead Planetarium

January 28, 2019 - Science Fun (in class)

March 28, 2019 - Museum of Life and Science

April 29, 2019 - Prairie Ridge

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading*, we took assessments last week on retelling stories and started a new unit on asking and answering questions before, during, and after reading (RL & RI 1.1). Students are learning the difference between telling and asking. They are becoming aware of the questions they have about a text before they start reading it. They will realize that their questions change as the story changes and that they may still have questions after reading the entire text. When answering questions, it is important to refer back to the text. Young children sometimes respond to questions with their opinions or preconceived ideas, so we will emphasize finding evidence in the text and/or pictures. We will also work on answering questions in complete sentences.

In *writing*, we are continuing our focus on writing stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end (W1.3). We have introduced transition words as well (then, after that, next, finally, etc.) when telling or writing a story. Students are writing small moment stories, which is a personal narrative that focuses on one moment in time. By focusing on a small moment, we can add details to make a better, more interesting story (as opposed to a vague story about the events of a whole day, a special trip, etc.)

In *math*, we are working on addition and subtraction within 20 (OA.1 & OA.5). Students have already learned several strategies for addition, and in the next two weeks we will work on subtraction and understanding the relationship between addition and subtraction. We will

continue to use oral stories and word problems to understand what adding and subtracting mean. Students will practice a variety of strategies to solve the problems, but our emphasis will be on understanding the concepts.

In *science*, we have started our earth materials unit. Students are observing and sorting rocks, sorting them, learning about where they come from, and discovering their uses.



- Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Before reading, have your child look at the cover and generate 2 or 3 questions about the book. Check to see if he/she knows the difference between telling and asking. During reading, stop and ask your child if he/she has a new question. After reading, ask your child questions about the story and have him/her respond in complete sentences.
- Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 4 this week and Unit 5 next week (lists are sent home on Mondays).
- Have your child write down an equation to represent this problem, then solve it: Eleven birds were sitting in a tree. Five birds flew away. How many birds are in the tree now? (You can also make up more stories, some adding and some subtracting.) What strategies does your child use to solve the problem? We've learned about drawing a picture, using a number line, counting on, acting it out, and using ten frames.
- Look for interesting rocks and talk about their colors, texture, and hardness.

*Memberhub link with comprehension questions, Letterland word lists, and math challenge problems can be found at: <https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository>

Have a great week! – First Grade Team

sabel@wcpss.net, cblum@wcpss.net, awierman2@wcpss.net