



November Newsletter 2018

November FUN!

What a quick but fun month this is! Earlier this month we took a walk to Lane Library. Students listened to a few books read aloud, some fiction and some nonfiction, and some very interactive pop-up books! We took a tour of the library and learned about the different book areas and how to locate books. The highlight of the trip...students went shopping for a new book! ☺ Students loved learning about Veteran's Day earlier this month and we had a school-wide Veteran's Day Assembly on Friday, November 9th. Students are always in awe of hearing "real" veterans come and speak to the school. This year we had two visiting veterans...one was the father of one of our kindergartners and the other was a grandfather of one of our second graders. Students loved seeing pictures of them in their uniforms and learning about their adventures while being deployed. We will be ending this month with our Sharing Assembly next Tuesday morning. We will work on creating some festive hats to wear to the assembly! We are having a school-wide food drive and students will bring to the Sharing Assembly any food donations we have collected in our classroom.

Word Work

Our wall of word families is getting quite crowded with 18 word families reviewed: *og, op, ub, ad, at, an, ag, am, ap, en, et, ig, ip, in, ed, it, ot, ug*. We have added many new words to our word wall so far this year including: *a, and, as, by, be, do, does, for, from, his, he, have, has, I, is, my, me, of, or, one, she, said, the, to, they, we, was, you, your*. ***Ask your child to sing our "they song" which helps students remember the correct spelling of that tricky word (that there is no "a" in "they")!** Just a reminder, once a word is added to the word wall, we expect it to be read and written correctly. Please also remember to practice reading and writing the individual word lists I sent home at conferences. I will be reassessing your child's current word list prior to the end of our trimester. To determine if students are ready to move to the next word list, they need to read and write their current list of words accurately. It is also necessary that students spell their words correctly in context, during our Writer's Workshop time.

Fundations

Now that students are quite capable of hearing and recording the sounds of common spelling patterns, we have begun working with additional letter/sound combinations. For example, students should know to record a "q" and a "u" when they hear the /q/ sound. We have reviewed digraphs (H Brothers) (th, sh, ch, wh) which students were introduced to in kindergarten. Students have also learned to record "ck" when they hear the /k/ sound at the end of a word or the end of a syllable, directly after a short vowel (chick, sock, pick, luck...). We have also introduced bonus letters (s, f, l, z) this month.....when s, f, l, z is at the end of a word and following a short vowel, you must bonus/double it!! For example: buzz, fluff, miss, pull. Students are also learning about glued sounds, letters that are "glued" so tightly together they cannot be tapped out (all, am, an, ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, unk). So far we have worked hard on the first three glued sounds (all, am, an). Lastly, this month, students began adding suffix s to the end of words, to make the word plural (cats) or to mean action (flips). Students understand that suffix s can sound like a s or sometimes like a z (dogs).

Math

We have continued to review 2D and especially 3D shapes this month. Has your first grader performed our 3D Shapes Chant for you yet (see attached)? In addition to counting by 1s (forwards and backwards) and by 10s, we're also practicing counting by 5s and 2s. Students have been having fun counting by 10s from different starting points, not just beginning with 10, and emphasizing just changing the 10s place (for example 6, 16, 26, 36, etc). Students are enjoying creating fact families (2 addition and 2 subtraction facts using the same 3 numerals) and understanding the fancier term "commutative property". We have continued to review solving number stories (addition, subtraction, how many more/less and missing addend/minuend). It is important for students to be able to explain and show how they solved these problems. Missing addend equations has also been a big part of our math this month. To solve, students should count from the known addend up to the sum. For example, for solving $x+3=10$, student would count from 3 up to 10 to determine 7 is the missing addend. Remember, students are also seeing equations with the sum written first ($10=x+3$), to fully understand the equals sign and that it is balanced on each side. Also introduced to students this month is true/false equations; students determine if an equation is true or false and if it is false, and what addend/minuend they can change to make it a true equation. We also have begun solving 3 addend equations (for example, $2+3+3$). In these equations, students should first find and add the doubles addends or the addends that make 10, then add the 3rd addend. Please keep practice the fact cards at home with your first grader.

Writer's Workshop

After finishing up our first writing unit (Small Moments) at the start of this month, we began our next unit: Nonfiction Chapter Books. We began this unit by studying a variety of nonfiction books and determined that they are teaching books; they teach the reader about a specific topic. Students then brainstormed topics they know well and therefore, topics they can teach others about. After selecting a topic, students use a graphic organizer to brainstorm the different subtopics (chapters) they will address in their information book. As this unit continued, students learned the importance of adding details in their writing by writing "twin sentences" and by giving examples and comparisons in their writing. A twin sentence begins with the term(s) used at the end of the sentence prior. For example, "Dogs like to eat *biscuits*. *Biscuits* are cookie treats that are sometimes used to reward dogs for doing something well." We are also spending time understanding that pictures in nonfiction books should teach the reader, too, by adding labels, diagrams, close up images, etc. It's so exciting to see these first grade writers growing and developing!! They are very excited to be writing lengthy, detailed teaching books that have multiple *chapters*!!

Reader's Workshop

We are almost finished with our second reading unit: Word Detectives. In this unit, students learned additional strategies to use as they are reading. These strategies are meant to be helpful with longer, trickier spelled words that we are finding in the higher levels of texts students are now reading. After Thanksgiving, we will begin our third unit of reading and coordinating with our current non-fiction writing unit, as it is focused on reading nonfiction texts. Students will be reminded that nonfiction texts teach us about a topic and will get in the habit of studying the cover and title, gathering much information about the text even before beginning reading it. We will also emphasize for students the importance of studying the illustrations in nonfiction texts, as they often teach readers additional facts through diagrams, labels, etc. Of course, students will continue to use and strengthen their decoding strategies and skills while enjoying nonfiction texts. When you visit Lane Library or your own shelves of books at home, read and discuss nonfiction texts with your first grader.

Homework Reminders

MATH PACKETS & FLASHCARDS: Math Review Packets are looking great!! It is evident that you are spending important time with your youngster, ensuring they are understanding the review of math skills being sent home. Just a reminder, new math review packets are sent home every Friday and can take as long as necessary to complete. *I am not expecting your child to complete the whole review packet in one setting. It is also important to review the addition and subtraction flashcards we have sent home. So far, students should be practicing +/- doubles, ones, twos, and sums of ten. Our goal is to eventually have these facts memorized.

READING FOLDERS & WORD LISTS: Reading folders come home nightly with a book or two that your child has selected from their reading box. It is ok if your child chooses to bring a book home more than once. Rereading texts helps with students' fluency (reading speed) and phrasing and expression (sounding like a storyteller). Please remember to review your child's current sight word list, both reading *and* writing!

FRIDAY FAMILY JOURNALS: I hope your family is enjoying the Friday Family Journals that come home at the end of most weeks. Students are *LOVING* completing them in school on Fridays. They get so excited to write and share about their week with their families. Please be sure to take the time to respond to your child in the journal. Together with your child, please read their weekly entry and your response.

THANK YOU so much for your efforts with at home work...it not only makes a big difference in your child's progress through our first grade skills, but it also shows your child the value and importance you are placing on what he/she is learning in school.

Important Dates

Tuesday, November 20th ~ Food Drive and Sharing Assembly for students

Wednesday, November 21st, 22nd, 23rd ~ No School!

Friday November 30th ~ End of First Trimester

Saturday, December 1st ~ Hampton Christmas Parade

Monday December 10th ~ Report Cards

Wednesday, December 12th ~ First Grade Holiday Concert at Winnacunnett High School

Wednesday, December 19th ~ High School Band & Chorus perform at Centre

Friday, December 21st ~ Early Release Day

December 24th - Tuesday January 1st ~ No School...see you in 2019!!