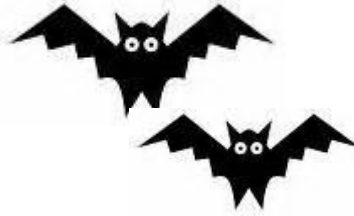


FIRST GRADE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



We are off to a fantastic start in our first grade classrooms! With that said, we are excited to share some first grade happenings throughout the months of school. Each month, a newsletter will be posted to the first grade Seesaw accounts. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about what your child will be learning each month. It will also include helpful resources and tips to reinforce skills at home.

Science, Social Studies, & Health

In science, we began the year discussing computer science concepts. The students have been learning how to stay safe when using technology, how to determine the appropriateness of websites and apps, and what to do when feeling uncomfortable using technology. We have talked about parts of a computer, as well.

Our second science unit is about engineering and the design process. Students will learn about the roles of engineers and how they develop technology solutions in order to solve everyday problems. The students will learn that technology does not necessarily need to be electronic and how everyday items such as backpacks, lunchboxes, and small kitchen tools are examples of technology, too. At home, we encourage you to ask children to identify different types of technology and discuss what types of problems these tools solve.

Examples:

- A washing machine helps clean clothes.
- A paper clip helps hold items together.

In social studies and health, our classes have been practicing whole body listening skills in order to become active and attentive listeners. This also helps to promote positive communications during class discussions. In October, we will discuss positive work habits so that students can work toward their highest potential always. You may also hear your children share important fire safety tips!

Math

We began the school year by delving into addition concepts. Students have been practicing putting addends together in order to form sums.

In October, we will be moving on to subtraction concepts and practicing taking numbers apart. Encourage your child to show their work by representing addition and subtraction equations using pictures as shown below.

$$\begin{array}{c} \bigcirc \bigcirc \\ \bigcirc \bigcirc \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \bigcirc \\ \bigcirc \end{array}$$
$$\underline{4} + \underline{2} = \underline{6}$$

$$\square \square \square \otimes$$
$$\underline{4} - \underline{1} = \underline{3}$$

Language Arts

FUNdations:

We have been setting the foundation for a lot of beneficial phonics work this year through the review of letter formations and sounds. Please continue to have your child practice proper letter formations taught at school. We will be transitioning into blending sounds to form words shortly!

Trick Words:

We will be sending home trick word information soon. We use a variety of multi-sensory approaches to practice these words, as they do not follow traditional phonemic patterns. We encourage you to use creative materials to make practice time fun! Use play-doh, shaving cream, or beads to have your child practice making and reading these words.

Reading Workshop:

Our first grade students have started learning about how to build their reading stamina by increasing the amount of independent reading time each day. In October, your child will be introduced to positive reading habits. Please see the next page for examples of reading habits being practiced this month.

Writing Workshop:

Similar to Reading Workshop, your child is building their writing stamina each day. In October, we will be focusing on "small moments," which allows the children to recall personal experiences and share them through writing. At home, we encourage you to discuss "small moments" with your child to help them develop ideas in the classroom. Please see the information on the back for examples.

Reading Workshop: Good Habits



Writing Workshop: What is a small moment?

Small Moments	
Big topic 	One day there was snow on the ground.
Smaller topic 	I went outside to play in the snow.
Small moment 	I went sledding while I played in the snow.

Example of a small moment:

Example:

Beginning: I went to the river with my friends and family. My friends wanted me to wakeboard. I felt nervous and scared.

Middle: I put my lifejacket on and put my feet in the foot holder. I held on tight. The boat took off and I was up! It pulled my arms and I didn't stay up long. I hit the water with my face.

End: I got up and everyone was cheering and was happy! I tried many times to get up and fell many times. I will get better.