

First Grade

NEWSLETTER

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This month:

English/Language Arts: We read and compared selected texts featuring a range of different kinds of characters and settings to understand how authors create stories. To help students recognize varying narrators' points of view, the selections in this unit included a variety of genres, from fables and animal fantasy tales to poetry and realistic fiction.

Math: We represented word problems with equations and solved them using a variety of problem-solving strategies including, but not limited to acting it out, doubles and doubles plus one, count on to add and count back to subtract, number line, number bonds, and drawing pictures. These strategies were also applied to demonstrating fluency of addition and subtraction within 10 and adding three whole numbers.

Science: In Health, we identified ways to take care of ourselves when we play outside. This included street safety, animal safety, stranger safety, and positive interactions with our friends. In Science, we used the engineering and design process to create a device to send a message to another person who is several feet away.

Social Studies: We continued to discuss and describe customs and traditions of families in our community.

Next month:

English/Language Arts: The selections in the next unit will get students thinking about the role technology plays in their lives. We'll explore the many ways technology solves problems through reading skills and strategies such as synthesizing, retelling key ideas and events in order, comparing and contrasting, and sorting. The text selections include a variety of genres, such as informational texts, fantasy, poetry, and realistic fiction, and they will engage both you and your child as you think about the problems technology solves.

Math: We will compare, order, and describe the length of objects directly and indirectly (using a referent item). We will also measure the length of objects using nonstandard units such as paper clips, connecting cubes, craft sticks, sticky notes, and/or straws. We will apply strategies to build fact fluency of addition and subtraction within 10 and adding three whole numbers. Strategies including, but are not limited to, the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction, acting it out, doubles and doubles plus one, count on to add and count back to subtract, number line, number bonds, Make 10 to add and subtract, and drawing pictures will be used.

Science/Health: We will learn how choosing healthy food keeps our muscles, bones, and teeth help us stay healthy and prevent illness.

Social Studies: We will describe geographical locations using pictures and photographs. We will also identify continents and oceans on a map of the earth.

Parent Notes:

Happy New Year!

We hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy and ready to take on 2020! Please read below for some reminders and important suggestions from the First Grade Team. As always, **please do not hesitate to contact us via a note in your child's folder, phone or email. We want to build a partnership with you to make this a year filled with growth and enjoyment for you and your child. We look forward to continuing to build a relationship with you and your child, and communication with you is an important part of that!**

In the winter months especially, there is a potential for school delays, early dismissals, and closings due to weather-related emergencies. Please sign up for Alert MCPS in order to receive notifications on your phone as soon as county staff deem it necessary to announce a change in the school day. Here's the information:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx

We are continuing to work hard to maximize our instructional time. We have a few suggestions and reminders to support a smooth transition from home to school each day.

Now that the weather has become colder and the school-wide HVAC unit has been switched to heat, it can get very warm in the classrooms, so layers are encouraged. However, it is important for items worn to school to cause as little distraction as possible. Please talk with your child about keeping their hair and clothing in the same way it was when they left the house in the morning. We are having several jewelry, hairstyle and wardrobe changes throughout the day, causing disruption to instruction.

We learned about dental health recently, which included keeping hands and other objects out of our mouths. However, many students continue to put their fingers and items from the classroom in their mouths. Many germs linger in schools, and putting fingers and items from home or the classroom in their mouth will cause a more significant spread of these germs. We will be using wipes on a regular basis to clean surface areas of the classroom, so please help us in our efforts by discussing the importance of keeping items out of their mouth with your child. Please also encourage your child to use the tissues (generously donated by you) to take care of stuffiness or any discomfort with their noses. To prevent illness, please encourage your child to use hand sanitizer after using tissues.

Please empty your child's backpack each day to review items in their folders and repack it with the items and materials necessary for school. Folders should return the very next school day and toys should be left at home.

If you are willing to donate items to the classroom, the following items are always needed and appreciated: 48-count crayons, tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and resealable baggies. Please talk with your child's teacher to discuss any needs specific to each classroom. We ALWAYS have a wish list!

Upcoming Dates and Reminders:

- Monday, January 27th - No School for Students
- Tuesday, February 4th - Report Cards go home
- Monday, February 17th - No School
- Friday, February 28th - Career Day and Early Release for Students
- Friday, March 27th - Early Release for Students/End of MP 3
- Monday, April 6th through Monday April 13th - No School