

November Newsletter

Mrs. Hall's Grade 1 Class

Monday, November 3, 2014

One of the most productive months of the year is now upon us. Routines are well established and students have struck a steady work pace. Progress in all areas of the curriculum is being made and a big thank you goes out to all of you for your continued support. I will be seeing everyone soon for our parent conferences. Your date/time is:

My Blog

Just a reminder that I have a classroom blog. You can get to my blog by going to our school website, click on classes, and then S. Hall. If you would like to get notifications when I update by blog, you can go to "Subscribe by Email" which is on the bottom right of my home page.

Language Arts

We have been doing a great deal of shared reading (this includes the poems in our reading duotangs) and shared writing (an example would be our Morning Message). During shared reading and writing students: recognize and identify word wall words, identify and discuss punctuation, increase their knowledge of phonetics (such as vowel sounds, suffixes, and prefixes), edit capitalization and spelling errors, and discuss word patterns.

Mathematics

We are just finishing up our unit on data management and will be starting a unit on patterning. The students will be creating and describing a variety of pattern cores. Following patterning, we will be working on counting forward by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's to 50 and counting backwards by 1's, 2's, and 5's from 20.

Social Studies

We are learning about rules, responsibilities and relationships in our home, school, and community.

Reading

Hopefully you are continuing to read with your child each night at home. Employing the following strategies will assist in reading for meaning as opposed to decoding words without understanding what is being read.

Try these strategies:

- Look at the pictures to gain meaning
- Skip the 'tricky' word and read to the end of the sentence. Then go back and try to figure out the problematic word.
- Make sure the sentence makes sense
- Re-read if the sentence does not make sense
- Make sure the guess looks right, sounds right, and makes sense
- Stop, think, and discuss/predict the story line.

Remember that sounding out words only works some of the time and can detract from your child's understanding of the text.

Yellow Reading Duotangs

The children are still bringing their yellow duotangs home every Friday. Please take the time to review the poems with your child and remove the little booklet that they have made that week. Try to find the word wall words in these booklets and have your child practice reading them. We will continue to have a sight word test every Friday with the words coming home every Monday. I am very pleased with my students' progress at learning these words, and as a result their reading has also improved.

Dates To Remember

Nov. 21 - PJ Day

Nov. 28 - Assembly (Wear your house colour)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school.

Yours in education,
Sherry Hall

Literacy Home Links

Real Reasons To Write

We know that being able to write effectively is tremendously important. How can we help young writers? We give them many opportunities to write for real purposes. We read to them and have them read daily at home and at school. We also provide them with many opportunities to share their thoughts.

Students more readily understand what writing is about when they write for functional purposes. Just as we write lists, invitations, recipes, letters, notes, and reports, students like to write for real reasons. Before beginning to write, we ask them to think about two questions: Why am I writing? Who is the audience?

Here are some ways to promote writing for real reasons:

- Write a daily note to your child and tuck it into a lunch box or under the pillow. Ask a question so your child has a reason to write back.
- Make your child responsible for writing thank-you cards and birthday or other invitations.
- Encourage your child to write a letter, postcard, or note to a relative or friend
- Help your child to write a letter to a favourite author or illustrator. First, help make a list of ideas that your child wants to share. (Letters sent by regular mail may be sent via the publisher. The publisher's name and address can usually be found on the book's copyright page.) Students may also choose to contact authors by email. Many have Web pages. Popular children's authors:
 - Eric Carle at www.eric-carle.com
 - Robert Munsch at www.robertmunsch.com
 - Jan Brett at www.janbrett.com
- Write a report on a favourite person, place, or thing.
- Have your child write or add to lists
 - of groceries
 - of things to do
 - of wishes
 - of people to visit, phone, or write

An important goal is to get students writing and to keep them writing. Sometimes, achieving this is not easy. But, when students know why they are writing and who their audience is, they are more motivated to make it happen.