

First Grade News



Religion:

Throughout the month of October, our first graders have been participating in saying "The Guardian Angel" prayer which has been said each morning over the announcements. Focusing on this prayer throughout the month has allowed us to remember that our Guardian Angels are with us each day in first grade. What a wonderful way to begin our school day! In addition to focusing on the mysteries of the Rosary this week, our first graders learned all about the Holy Family and how the shepherds told everyone about the birth of Jesus. We learned that at Christmastime, we remember these shepherds and how we too can be shepherds sharing God's love with others. We explored various magazine pictures of community members sharing God's love in simple ways and reflected on how we too can do this both at school and at home. When studying the Rosary, we focused on the Joyful Mysteries, created our own Rosary charts and studied exactly how to say a Rosary. We are looking forward to learning about the Glorious, Luminous and Sorrowful mysteries throughout the next few weeks!

Math:

It is hard to believe we are almost done with our second math chapter! This week, we spent time working on subtraction word problems as well as focusing on identifying fact families. We utilized our math notebooks for a challenge fact family activity, watched several video clips from My Math to help model subtraction and enjoyed going to the Challenge Math Center throughout the week! We also continued our work on subtracting from 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Our first graders loved incorporating a little October treat as we used candy corn for our manipulatives! We used these when subtracting during our math lesson on Friday. They had blast and really are grasping the concepts and skills from the chapter quite well! Some of their favorite math centers this week included our "Pumpkin Patch" subtraction game and playing pumpkin domino subtraction. Next week, we will spend a great deal of time reviewing for our math test on Tuesday, October 24th. Don't forget, all math tool kits are due back on Tuesday as well!

Reading:

Throughout Lesson 7, our first graders were hard at work focusing on the short i, clusters with r; -br, -cr, -tr, -gr, and much more. We enjoyed reading the story How Animals Communicate, where we learned a great deal about the everyday communication of all animals big and small. During Guided Reading and Literacy centers this week, our first graders built words with these r clusters, played "Fast Phrases" in the fluency center, used alphabet beads to practice their spelling words and played "Halloween Sight Word Bingo!" One of their favorite literacy centers this week was our Phonics game "Breaking Broncos," where our first graders worked together with their Peers to sort pictures and words by the r cluster. In Mrs. Veit's small group, students also enjoyed learning about synonyms and antonyms as they played a matching game, and learned all about putting words in alphabetical order. Our first graders also worked incredibly hard each morning during our visual and auditory drill which requires our first graders to fluently say letter names, sounds and identify blends and word families. Next week, we will begin Lesson 8. We will have our spelling test on Thursday, October 27th on Lesson 8.

Social Studies, Science & Writing

We've had another fun week! We finished our pumpkin unit studies and launched our mini bat unit! We have really enjoyed incorporating many great non fiction books throughout these units. We were able to add many new facts to our Schema chart this week that we learned from our nonfiction text. We also utilized some of our time to finish our pumpkin informational texts by adding our Table of Contents and Glossary to our books. Our first graders have learned a great deal about informational texts by creating their own pumpkin books! During our social studies time this week, we continued our map unit and began talking about neighborhoods and community helpers. We even got out our 3-D map resources from our Exploring Where and Why cart and used Buddy Atlases to explore various kinds of neighborhoods. With partners, we went on an Atlas Scavenger Hunt that required our first graders to familiarize themselves with the various maps and diagrams found within this special first grade resource. It was a lot of fun! We also began making our own 3-D buildings! These paper bag buildings built our gigantic first grade neighborhood!

Week of October 16th-20th.

Mark Your Calendar

October 24th- Math Test-Chapter 2, Math Tool Kits due back

October 26th- October Book It Report Due, Spelling Bags due

October 27th- No School

October 30th- October Service Opportunity for local fire fighters

October 31st- Halloween Party *

November 1st- No School

A Note from Mrs. Buckley:

Dear First Grade Parents,

I hope you all have had a great week! We've had another wonderful week in first grade!

Not only did we meet our reading goal of reading 400 books, we far surpassed it! We have read a total of 477 books already in the month of October! I am incredibly proud of all of our first graders! Way to go! ☺ In celebration of all of their hard work, our first graders will be able to have a pajama day on October 30th! We will enjoy some special snacks that day as well!

Also this week, we talked about and sent home information regarding our October Service Opportunity for first grade. We are dedicating our service opportunity to our brave fire fighters. I've noticed so many of our students praying for them lately, so they have definitely been on our minds. Be sure to check out the attached flyer for more information!

Next week, your first grader will be turning in their very first **Book It Report**! I am looking forward to reading and seeing everyone's character pumpkins! We will be displaying them outside of the library. Mrs. Androsky has agreed to let us enter those pumpkins in her Pumpkin Character Challenge for the library! Other students from the school will be able to vote on their very favorite! We will be sure to take lots of pictures!

Don't forget, all math Tool Kits will be due back next Tuesday, the day of our Chapter 2 math test. I will be preparing them with some new materials for Chapter 3. I will also be sending home another Chapter 3 math Tool Kit permission slip to be signed and returned. All Review Packets can be found in your first grader's purple folder and are great to use for review before the test. We will of course spend time in class reviewing as well.

Finally, if you have not already, please be sure to sign up for our Fall Conferences. We will have conferences on November 9th and 10th. Information regarding signing up can be found in the Thursday Packet on Edline. These conferences are required at Saint Ann for all parents.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! We are looking forward to another exciting week! Blessings,
Mrs. Buckley

Lesson 8 Spelling Words: Week of Oct. 23rd

on, got, fox, hop, pop, not