

# First Grade News



## Religion:

This week in Religion, we focused our attention on many important aspects of our Catholic Faith; The Feast of the Guardian Angel (October 2<sup>nd</sup>), The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, which is celebrated on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We began the week by reading several books about our Guardian Angels, including "Angel of God, What's Your Name?" and "Angel of God." In our writing center, all of our first graders drew detailed pictures of their Guardian Angels and wrote all about how they help keep each of us safe. On Friday, we learned all about the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and even joined the rest of the school for a special movie in the Multi-Purpose room that will help prepare us for the feast next week. We are looking forward to joining our St. Ann family in the procession on Tuesday.

In our "Be My Disciples" series, we have been focused on learning all about creation and even made our very own creation wheels to help us remember what God created each day. We've had an exciting week with our religious studies and are really looking forward to next week!

## Math:

Our first graders have really done a fantastic job with putting forth their best effort with subtraction. We continued to focus on Chapter 2 this week and studied subtraction stories, subtraction number sentences and modeling subtraction using a part/part/whole work mat. During centers, our first graders played "Clear the Board," "Sums in Space" and worked with Mrs. Veit on a subtraction foldable that reviewed many of our subtraction concepts. This week was challenging in math, as we began looking at how to figure out what the missing number in a subtraction number sentence is. This was tricky however, our first graders were determined to master this concept! We took this concept one step further and began working on identifying fact families that accompany some of those tricky problems. Keep up the hard work first graders! This week, we also introduced our "October Math Challenge Station!" This special place in our classroom houses many exciting math games including, "Monster Mash" and "Frankenstein Subtraction". They've also been working on some Halloween themed measuring and even balancing equations at this station! Our first graders have loved visiting the "October Challenge Station" throughout the week! It is sure to be an exciting month in math!

## Reading:

We had a blast learning about and practicing the skills from Journeys Lesson 5 this week. In addition to practicing our new sight words, spelling words and reading *Gus Takes the Train*, our first graders used sticky notes to mark their "Think Note Marks" and enjoyed practicing the short u during our auditory and writing warm up each morning. In centers this week, we also enjoyed building words with the short u sound, digging for our short u spelling words in our "Spooky Spelling Center" and timing ourselves in the fluency center as we played "Fast Phrases." We were very busy! Next week, we will begin Lesson 6 in our Journeys reading curriculum. Please be sure to continue practicing sight words with your first grader at home. Their rings should come home in their book baggie each evening. Right now, we are adding 6 new words each week to our rings, so any practice that can be done at home to reinforce these words would be great!

One of our favorite apps to use during listening center is the EPIC app. This allows us to access thousands of books on our iPads in the classroom. The books include fiction and nonfiction books and have a variety of resources as well. This is a great app to download at home for additional reading resources.

## Science & Writing

It is hard to believe that we have launched our pumpkin unit! We began the week by creating our Schema Chart, where our first graders will keep track of their new learning and any misconceptions throughout the unit. We also enjoyed reading several great nonfiction texts about the lifecycle of pumpkins. We learned many new facts about pumpkins that will help us with our writing over the next several weeks. We began working on our own informational texts titled "All About Pumpkins" this week. These books will require each first grader to create a table of contents, glossary and even label their own page numbers. Each page will be dedicated to giving information about a particular aspect of pumpkins. For example; "Where Do Pumpkins Grow?" and "Pumpkin Foods." We are looking forward to working on these special books! In addition to working on our informational texts about pumpkins, we used literacy centers to incorporate some spooky writing that we decided to hang in the hallway. Each first grader wrote a "How To" piece detailing what they would do to "Spook a Monster." They even had the opportunity to make their own monster to accompany their writing! This written piece allowed our first graders to put their own creative spin on their writing, while working on their handwriting, incorporating spelling words from their *Words I Use When I Write booklets* and using their "Writer's Eye."

## Week of October 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Mark Your Calendar

October 10<sup>th</sup>- Fatima Procession and Mass

October 11<sup>th</sup>- Picture Day- No PE Uniforms

October 13<sup>th</sup>- No Mass, Spelling Test Lesson 6, CCHS Tailgating!

## \* A Note from Mrs. Buckley:

Dear First Grade Parents,

I hope you all have had a wonderful week. We sure have in first grade! It is certainly hard to believe it is already October and our first graders have been in school for several weeks now. With that being said, we have many new and exciting things happening at school!

To accompany our October Book It Report (sent home last week), our first graders have officially set their first class wide reading goal! We will set one each month. They've decided to work as a team both at home and at school to read 400 books during the month of October! I was quite impressed with this goal. If we meet our class goal by October 26<sup>th</sup>, they've chosen to have a pajama party and combine extra iPad time ☺ What a fun way to reward their hard work and encourage nightly/classroom reading. Believe it or not, we've already read over 200 books this week!! Keep up the great job first grade!

As we begin a very busy month, I do have a few announcements/reminders to keep us organized.

First, please be sure your first grader is returning their Guided Reading books or any books they are "checking out" from school. These books are to be read the night they come home and returned the next day so that other students may access them. If your first grader didn't have time to read it the night it comes home, they can just tell me the following morning that they need a little extra time. This is no problem at all! Don't forget the paper decodable books can be kept at home. Thank you for your help with making sure our classroom books are returned to school!

Next week, we will have mass on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> instead of on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be participating in the Fatima procession over at St. Ann church and therefore will attend a special mass on Tuesday. Additional details can be found in the Thursday Packet. We will also have picture day on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. No students are permitted to wear their PE uniforms that day due to the pictures. We will have a spelling test on Lesson 6 words on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. October spelling bags were sent home last week and should be used when studying their weekly spelling words.

Have a wonderful week and let me know if you have any questions or concerns! Thank you for all that you do to support us in first grade! ☺

Blessings,  
Mrs. Buckley

Lesson 6 Spelling Words: Week of Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>  
an, had, can, bad, cat, ran,