

First Grade News



Week of September 18th-22nd

A Peek at the Week

Mark Your Calendar

Religion:

In our religion classes this week, we spent a great deal of time talking about faith. What it is and how our actions show that we have faith. We learned all about Abraham and Sarah and God's promise to them. We made a special mini-book about them and even learned that their son Isaac's name means "laughter." On Thursday, we celebrated the feast of St. Matthew and learned a great deal about this special Saint. We also focused this week on learning about all of the people in our lives that share their faith with us. Who are the people in our daily lives that share God's love with us? Many of our first graders named their parents, friends and family members. Next week, our first graders will begin Chapter 3 in their Be My Disciple packets which is titled *God Our Father and Creator*.

Math:

We have had a blast over the last couple of weeks spending the first part of our math lessons practicing fact fluency and utilizing small groups to work on specific math skills from Chapter 1 (Addition). We launched our math centers this week and were thrilled to get to work with our friends using the iPads and play "Domino Dunk It!" Mrs. Veit and I spent time with our differentiated groups reviewing and re-teaching concepts from the chapter. We also incorporated some apple enrichment activities! Throughout the week, we utilized our whole group math time to practice solving addition word problems, being sure to always "underline what we already know and circle what we want to find out." We also explored ways to make 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. We loved playing addition bingo and the game "Flip Flop" that required our first graders to practice writing addition number sentences from fact families. On **September 26th**, our first graders will take their first math assessment. The word problems on this assessment will be read aloud. Please utilize the My Math Review pages and optional homework pages for review this week as you help your first grader prepare. We are looking forward to exploring subtraction in our next chapter.

Reading:

We had another exciting and productive reading block this week! Our students were busy mastering our Lesson 3 content and reviewing our Lesson 2 material. We focused on learning about the short o this week and read "Curious George Goes to School." This weekly story required us to focus on being able to sequence events in stories. What is the overall event that occurred first, next, then and finally? Our first graders also focused on the short o sound and used our literacy center time to make corrections to crazy sentences with our "Daily Fix Its!" Some of our favorite centers this week included the spelling center, which required our first graders to use alphabet beads and pipe cleaners to make spelling words. We also loved our silly sort (short -o & short-i) that we worked on in the phonics games/sorts center. Next week, we will begin Lesson 4. Often with our weekly reading lessons, we will have a phonics assessment or comprehension assessment based on what we have learned throughout the week. This is **not** an assessment that your first grader will need to study for outside of class and instead will be a few questions based on our classroom activities. Weekly tests like these are used to guide future instruction for your first grader and may include comprehension skills, vocabulary and phonics skills taught. Again, outside studying is not required at this time however, you do have access to all resources on our Journeys website www.thinkcentral.com. All assessments like these will be sent home so as to keep you up to date on your child's mastery of skills taught.

Writing/Social Studies/ Science

What an exciting week! We began by learning all about adjectives by taste testing apples and creating a class anchor chart of apple adjectives. To accompany our comprehension strategy of sequencing events, as well as our apple unit, our first graders read "How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World" and made a very special apple pie! In addition, we worked on a "How To..." piece that required them to specifically write each of the steps for making apple pie in sequence. We had a blast with this activity and challenged our young writers to include our apple adjectives in their writing. In addition to making our apple pie, our first graders worked on a "Fact vs. Opinion" sort and made 3-dimensional apples outlining the life cycle of apple trees! Next week, we will conclude our apple unit in science as well as our Me On The Map unit.

September 26th Math Test today on Chapter 1
September 28th: Snack Pack Service Project, Spelling Test on Lesson 4, Spelling bags due
September 30th: No School

A Note from Mrs. Buckley:

Dear First Grade Parents,

We had quite a busy week in first grade and *enjoyed every minute of it! In order to get us prepared for our upcoming short week, I have just a few announcements. As always, please let me know if you have any questions at all!

Due to not having school on Friday, September 29th, our first graders will take their weekly spelling test on Thursday morning on the Lesson 4 words. These words can be located at the bottom of this newsletter, on our class website and in the Curriculum Packet sent home at Back to School Night. In addition, their Spelling Bags will also be due that morning. Please be sure that your first grader returns all the materials so that we can refill the bags with a few new items for next month! I hope your students have enjoyed using these bags to practice their words this month!

Your first grader will also take their very first math test this coming week! I've explained to the students that this is quite a milestone in their life and it is not something to be nervous about. Instead it's an opportunity to show off ☺ We will have our test in the morning and will of course celebrate this big event with a special treat ☺ I am so proud of their hard work throughout our first chapter and am looking forward to our next chapter on subtraction! Speaking of our next chapter, your first grader will also be receiving a letter explaining our math tool kits that may be checked out for each chapter. These are completely optional however, are designed to help with math review at home. Be on the lookout for this letter!

Our September Snack Packs Service Project will be on Thursday, September 28th. All of our first graders will be putting snack packs together for children in need. We will be collecting any snack donations throughout next week (9/25-9/28). I strongly encourage you to have your first grader choose the snacks, either from your very own pantry or from the store. Snacks that they believe would be enjoyed by another child their age. This project will guide many class discussions next week and help us to learn that small gestures can truly make a big difference in another person's life. We will be making snack packs from 12:30-1:15 on the 28th. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. Also, all paperwork must be on file in the office. Thank you!

This week, your first grader will be bringing home information about the *Book It* program that our first graders participate in from October – March. This program is sponsored by Pizza Hut and is a fun way to get our first graders reading more at home and at school. While we will be setting a class reading goal this week for the month of October, our first graders will also utilize the month of October to work on their first book report. This is designed to be an exciting opportunity for our students to recommend their favorite books to their peers. Be on the lookout for this information in your first grader's purple folder this week. I hope you all have a wonderful week. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns!

Blessings,
Mrs. Buckley

Lesson 4 Spelling Words: Week of 9/ 25

yet, wet, web, leg, pen, hen