

First Impressions

Mrs. Humphries
First Grade

August 23, 2010

Welcoming Our New Friends

Welcome Back! This week we welcomed some new friends into our classroom community. We welcomed Ryan Pawlowski, Morgan Thomas, Alyssa Bleavins and Jacob Barrocas.

We spent some important time this week discussing the meaning of our creed and rewriting our classroom promise. The students chose to add a few new lines to help our classroom community work together most effectively.

Our Promise to Each Other

When we care about each other and our classroom, we...

Share what we have, listen carefully, help each other learn,

Work hard, be happy and have fun together.

Be kind to everyone. We forgive each other and do not remind people of their mistakes. We don't tell secrets and we always let people play. We understand that everyone makes mistakes. We stand up for ourselves and others and when someone asks us to stop, we stop. This is who we are even when no one is watching.

Announcements

- Remember to send a healthy snack that includes a protein source and an unrefrigerated water bottle each day.
- If you plan to participate in the Ident-a-kid program, please be sure to send your form in by Wednesday of this week.
- Important Dates:
Sept 6: No school
Labor Day
Sept 10: No school
Teacher Workday

Literacy Links

We introduced a new routine in our classroom called our Day Books. These books will be used throughout the year to gather important things and to think out loud on paper from time to time. We hope that at the end of the year these day books will be kind of like a scrapbook collection of things learned throughout the year. Occasionally we will send these home with your child. When we do send the books home, be sure to send them right back to school so that your child does not miss a special entry in the book!

Today we are sending home your child's nightly reading homework. Please send this bag back to school each day even if you are not finished with the book. This routine of bringing things back and forth to school helps develop a daily homework habit. Next Monday we will add Word Study to our homework routine.

Math Minutes

We celebrated a total of five birthdays last week! Wow! That might be a record! We used this as an opportunity to discuss the everyday use of numbers. We looked at our birthdates and wrote a page in our day books about our birthday numbers. The children were intrigued with the concept of converting months to a number and discovering the year in which they were born. You could certainly extend this learning at home, by taking time to discuss the "birthday numbers" for each member of your family and even how the year and age are connected. In math we also explored some math manipulatives and some new tools that can be used with these manipulatives.