

October 1, 2010

Mrs. Gamblin's Friday Newsletter



Appreciations

Thank you to everyone who came to conferences this week. I look forward to seeing the rest of you next Monday. I love this opportunity to meet with parents! Thanks to Kendra Fantetti volunteering in the library - and to Kate Hagelin and Michelle Kelly for being our library back ups.

Info and Reminders

Monday, October 4 - Conferences

Friday, October 8 - Fire Station Field Trip - Volunteers please arrive by 8:20 a.m. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. sharp in order to walk to the Fire Station.

Friday, October 8 - Book orders from today's Friday folder are due.

**We are still in need of rolls of adding machine tape.

Homework

If you haven't yet turned in the September calendar, please do so. Homework for this week is to read and record it on the October reading calendar and two safety sheets (all of which are in today's Friday folder). If you learned (or learn) at conferences that your child already knows their full name/phone/address, please disregard this part of the safety assignment. On Oct. 12th from 2:30 - 3:00, the first grade teachers will hold an information meeting for parents to introduce our math homework. Please come if you can. Otherwise packets will be sent home.

So what did you do in school today?

This week in handwriting/beginning letter-sound relationships, we focused on q, x, e, w and y. In poetry, we read, "If I Promise to Do It" and did a reflecting activity of why it's important to keep our word. In math, we read several math books, including *Math-ter-pieces* by Gregg Tang to support our making combinations in a variety of ways. I love how this book uses famous paintings by well-known artists as an entry point for math. Kids who love art seemed to smile from ear to ear while we were doing this lesson. We continued documenting our mathematical thinking this week with a tigers and dinosaurs activity, graphing the various ways we got to school, and a variety of activities from Add+Vantage Math, such as arranging the cards in the "ones," "twenties" and "teens" families and noticing patterns about them. The kids loved our discussion about how a lot of teenagers like to sleep in late, eat lots of pizza and break the rules ... just like the "teens" family does in math (i.e. 10, 11 and 12 don't even *sound* like a teen; and the way you say fif-teen is different from how you write it because the 1 (which is really a 10) comes before the 5, not the other way around.) In Pebbles, Sand and Silt we explored combinations of sand and water, and clay and water, and discovered what happened when we let the mixtures sit overnight. Highlights this week were: starting reading groups, seeing Mrs. Marshall's second grade class and their box city, our Friday assembly and taping Mr. M to the wall (with his permission, of course).

Have a great weekend!