**First Graders are Fantastic!**

**Look at all we’ve learned! –**

**Pictures:** <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3s_OUk45AJ0bjBxdDVlZXJrU2c&usp=sharing>

**Math**

At the beginning of the week students thoroughly enjoyed some active stations that helped students work on their addition and subtraction with regrouping! Later on in the week students learned how to look for tens to help them add three numbers together! Students had fun adding the dots on three dominos and borrowing dots from one domino to make another domino have 10! While we are still working in the concrete and pictorial (with blocks and dots as well as written equations), looking for tens while adding three numbers will help students move to the abstract (mental math by visualizing in ones’ head).

For spring break students should continue to work on their tens facts! Please check last week’s newsletter for fun games that help students build their automaticity and master adding, subtracting, and part, part, whole within the numbers 0-10. We have also included two packets in students’ mailboxes. One is addition and one is subtraction. These packets feature the bar modeling method that students have been introduced to, however in class we typically use the “transformer” method. Please encourage your student to do whichever is most comfortable for them. I have also included a blank packet of “transformers” and numbers sentences students can use to help show their work. There is no pressure for students to complete these packets! My first priority is for students to relax and enjoy! However, if you find you need something for students to do while you are working, this is a great option!

Also here are some websites students can visit for fun math games.

1. <http://www.mathplayground.com/>
   1. Math Playground is a great resource, but it can seem a bit overwhelming at first.  If you click on the website, you can select the Math Games 1 option.  My favorite game is the Number Bonds 10 and Number Bonds 20 which are located towards the bottom.  As an extra challenge, the Number Bond game (no number afterwards) has the students creating ‘100’.  Feel free to play around on the website.  Also, if you find that your child has a favorite game, please let me know so we can play in the classroom at times as well.
2. ABCya
   1. <http://www.abcya.com/mathlines_add_to_ten.htm>  --- super fun game with a pinwheel of sorts where students have to hit a ball to the target to get a number which they choose (options are numbers 5 to 20).
   2. <http://www.abcya.com/base_ten_fun.htm>  --- reinforces the concept of tens and ones.  Students are given base 10 blocks and have to create numbers.
   3. <http://www.abcya.com/100_number_grid.htm>  --- helps students with understanding 100s chart.
3. Gregtangmath.com
   1. <http://www.gregtangmath.com/Games/Numskill>
   2. <http://www.gregtangmath.com/Games/BreakApart>

Students also enjoy the math ipad apps…

* Crackers and Goo
* Splash Math
* Math Fun – 1st Grade
* Thinking Blocks – Model and Solve Word Problems

**Readers Workshop**

This week we began a new unit in Readers Workshop - Poetry! This week we focused on a fabulous Poet, Shel Silverstein. Students have loved reading poems such as “Anteater”, “Bear in There”, “Wavy Hair”, and “Monsters I’ve Met”. Students have been practicing reading these poems in various voices while focusing on the rhythm of their voice! During spring break students can write their own poems to help them get ready for our next unit in Writers Workshop – poetry!

**Writers Workshop**

Thank you so much for everyone who was able to come to our Authors’ Celebration on Friday! Students were so excited to read their persuasive writing and ranking writing to you! Perhaps some may have even convinced you to think or do something a bit differently!

This week students worked very hard on revising and editing their Persuasive Writing pieces. We worked on ensuring our essays had hooks to grab our readers, numerous reasons and ideas to help persuade our reader, as well as a three-part conclusion that restated our argument, encouraged the reader to think about our ideas, and thanked the reader for their time. I hope you enjoyed listening to our students’ wonderful writing! After spring break we will begin our poetry unit! Over the break you can help students become more familiar with poetry by introducing them to a variety of poets and poetry forms!

**This Week’s Festivities**

This week was filled with exciting events! On Tuesday, students joined up with their sixth grade buddies in order to make signs for the garden outside of our classroom. Our fabulous maintenance department has been planting gorgeous flowers in the garden, and it is first grade’s goal to protect this beautiful space! We wrote signs to remind friends to use the stepping stones instead of stepping on the mulch where the flowers are trying to grow.

On Thursday we were lucky enough to have a scientist from the Jason Project demonstrate to the students how they use buoys to predict weather patterns and climate change! Students loved seeing these scientific tools!

On Friday, not only did we celebrate students’ writing accomplishments with our Authors’ Celebration, but we also celebrated our students’ unique talents and abilities! Many of our students elected to participate in our talent show! I am so impressed at the confidence our students have! So many of them are elated to be able to share their gifts with our student audience!

**Important Dates –**

**Monday, April 14th - Friday April 18th** – Spring Break. No School!

**Monday, April 15th -** 10:00am Opening

**Wednesday, April 23rd –** Field Trip to Discovery Theater for an Earth Day show. Please let me know if you are interested in chaperoning. You can find out more information here: <http://discoverytheater.org/shows/2014/apr/garbage-to-gardens-with-smithsonian-gardens.shtm>. At this time and weather permitting, we are hoping to bring bagged lunches and have a picnic lunch on the National Mall following the show. We will leave CSOV around 9:30am and should return around 1:30pm.