

1st Grade News

September 26, 2008

Sara Hansen, teacher

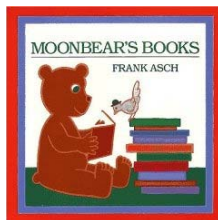
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Off to a great start!

With 18 days of school complete and only 156 days left to go, the 1st graders have started the school year motivated and ready to learn!

Reading

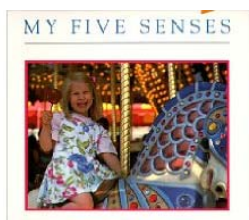
We started out reading class this year with Moonbear's



Books by Frank Asch. We learned different words to describe

books (thick, thin, happy, sad, new, old, etc) and went on a scavenger hunt in our own library to find books like Moonbear's!

We also spent a week learning about our five senses. We

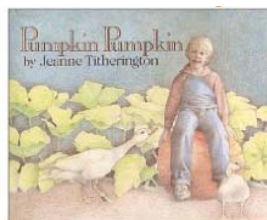


read the book My Five Senses by Margaret Miller. We made a cool

bulletin board about how we use our senses and make texture books. We had fun guessing our friend's letters!



Finally, we read the book



Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington in preparation for

our field trip to the pumpkin patch. We learned how pumpkins grow and even made our own sequence books!

Writing

Handwriting is our focus right now in 1st grade. We are using the Zaner-Bloser handwriting model to practice our upper and lowercase letters. We also use many kinesthetic games during writing, including letter hunts, forming letters with playdoh, and tracing letters in the air.

Math

We started out math this year working on telling time



to the hour and the half hour. Half hour was a little challenging

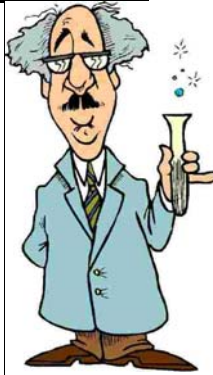
for us, but we continue to try and "catch" the clock on the half hour throughout the day. Please continue to practice this at home! We have moved onto counting skills and have used many fun centers over the last couple of weeks.

Thanks

Thanks to those of you who have sent in your classroom fees (\$10) and media fees (\$4). This is very helpful as we purchase supplies we need for the classroom and for technology projects. If you have not sent these fees in, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks!

SCIENCE CORNER WITH SANDRA GERMINARO

We are now learning about air and how air moves things. We have done several science activities related to air. The students are enjoying science laboratory experiments such as identifying air under water with bubbles, and using syringes safely to feel the pressure of air by pulling the plunger. The students had a difficult time pulling the plunger out of the syringe because the air was trapped inside! We also made napkin parachutes in class to show the concept of air resistance (the parachute floated down slowly). The students really enjoyed testing their parachutes! We also did a rocket balloon race activity to compare a large balloon with more air and small balloon with less air. We set three chairs at each end of the room with strings connecting them and straws on the strings. Next, we taped the balloons onto the straws. When we let go of the balloon and the air escaped, we created a "race" between the 2 balloons! Soon we will move on to the weather unit and learn how air is related to weather.



PE with Kelley Cole



The Red Team has been getting reacquainted with the dos and don'ts of PE, like when it's okay to touch PE equipment and when it's not. We are also practicing moving from station to station as well as sitting on carpet squares as soon as we enter the gym. All the basics will lead to a more productive and safe gym environment. We are playing, too! We've played parachute games, color games, number games, and lots of running, jumping, skipping, and hopping activities.

Art Spot

With Tyler McCormick



To begin the year we have been exploring themes like self-portraits, lines & patterns, primary and secondary colors, gesture drawings and collages. Activities, which include hands on art making, exploration through Smart Board activities and a good old-fashioned slide projector, which the kids love to run, have made for some lively class time. The students have been discovering how renowned artists such as Piet Mondrian, Mary Cassatt, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Paul Klee and Marc Chagall have used these themes in their own artwork. I have been having a lot of fun getting to know what sort of artist is lurking beneath the surface of these great kids. If you have any questions or anything else you would like to talk with me about, feel free to email me at tmccormick@metrodeafschool.org.



REFRIGERATOR PAGE!

Kinesthetic alphabet practice



Reminders

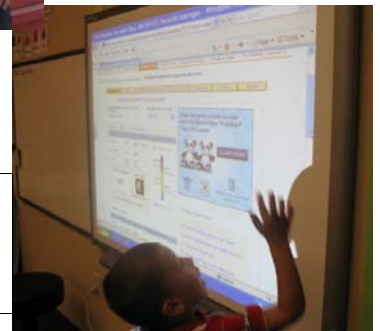
- Mon, Sept 29th, 2pm— White Team AR presentations
- Tues, Sept 30th, 8:30am— Student of the Month assembly
- Tues, Oct 7th 6:30— PTG meeting
- Fri, Oct 10th 7pm— Student council movie night
- Weds, Oct 15th 5:45pm— MDS Board meeting
- Oct 16th and 17th no school for students
- Oct 30th picture re-takes

Hayride at the apple orchard



Thank you for sending healthy snacks to school!

Students use the SMARTboard daily



Counting scavenger hunt



Literacy Centers