



First Grade News

NOVEMBER 7, 2011
52ND DAY
OF SCHOOL

Thank you for meeting with me last week to discuss your child's progress. I appreciate the help you're ready to offer your first grade to ensure further success and positive experiences in learning and discovery!

Special gratitude to the parents who escorted the costumed visitors to the Mercy Center. The residents and staff were delighted to welcome the darlings and appreciate the joyful noise! The monthly birthday celebration will take place on Friday, November 18 at noon. As we are not in school that day, is there someone who would be willing to make this a family event and deliver the greetings and sing Happy Birthday to our senior friends? Many thanks for your help.

We have four days this week, four days next week, and two days the week of Thanksgiving and then we begin our liturgical year with Advent, followed by four weeks to wait for Christmas!

Our plans include a special Thanksgiving celebration on Thursday, November 17 provided there is enough participation and help. First Graders will learn about Stone Soup, a universal story of friendship, sharing, and good will. A tasting of Stone Soup would be served at 11:45 a.m. in the Gibson Center. Please see details attached and reply so we'll know if we're on for our event! Thank you.

Things We're Doing:

Math: Applying the commutative property of addition ...also known as "flip flop" of the addends in first grade! We need to practice "doubles" for our math concept this week. Ask your child to identify 2's, 4's, 6's, 8's, 10's, 12's.

Word Work: "all" family - ball, call, tall, mall, small, fall, stall, all, etc. Short i word groups: ig, id, in, ip -pig, wig, did, kid, pin, fin, lip, tip, sip, etc.

Sight Words to know this week: **which, said, do, each, know, their, if, will, about, up** (hmmm, some are easy, some need lots of attention) Posting words for your child to find and read? Clipping a section of newspaper and asking your child to highlight particular words? Using Scrabble tiles to build words? Making your own set of flash cards?

Read, read, read: Read TO your child 20 minutes daily; your child should also enjoy some independent READING; sign and return any reading sheets sent home to share with you!

Handwriting: Practice forming letters correctly using a proper pencil hold; watch as your child forms these : *a. d. g. q. 9 (yes, that's a nine 9)*

Faith First: vocabulary this week includes the Holy Trinity - check out the review opportunity at www.faithfirst.com

Practice doesn't make it perfect - it makes it easier... easier to read, write, recognize, think. Have you ensured that www.mathletics.com and www.starfall.com have been visited often?

Special Interests: Help identify an area of special interest to your child. When your child narrows the field, we can help develop keen interests and expertise. Keep me posted on what appeals to your child. We love having resident experts in first grade!

You're Invited: On Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. the Holy Names University Orchestra presents a program including the Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*. The soloist is a student of Becky Trujillo, piano teacher to many of you! Please let me reserve tickets for you to enjoy the first half of the concert. Go home at intermission!

Thanking Veterans everywhere for our freedom.

