

October 19, 2014

Dear Families,

Hello and happy fall! We have been very busy in our classroom. Please read on to see what we've been doing...

Reading

We have been increasing our reading stamina by reading daily in our reading workshop. Thank you for supporting the development of your child's reading habits at home by encouraging nightly reading of at least 15 minutes or more. A reminder that students should be logging each night. Many students are completing four or five chapter books a week! Way to go! When it comes to reading, research has found that quantity really does matter.

In addition to continued work on mental movies and reacting to text, our mini-lessons lately have focused on self-monitoring for meaning, and problem solving when meaning breaks down. Teaching points have included:

- Good readers recognize when they don't understand what they've read. We can problem solve by reading on carefully, stopping to think about the main idea, re-reading the title or blurb, or going back to the last place we remember.
- Good readers notice new words and use context clues to guess at their meanings
- Good readers are able to retell what they've read. Good retells include character's names, setting, and big events on our character's timeline, including problems and solutions

We are working on building reading partnerships. This is a buddy for your child to discuss their reading with each day. We will be learning how to have a conversation with our buddy about a book we've read.

Math

We are nearing the end of our second math unit. This unit focuses on estimation and rounding strategies, problem solving, and multi-digit addition and subtraction. Students have been introduced to the partial sums method for multi-digit addition.

Important Dates:

Fri. 10/24: Maine Mapping Test

Fri. 10/31: Halloween Party/Parade 1:45

Tues. 11/4: Teacher Inservice, No School

Tues. 11/12: Town Hall Visit

**Tues./Wed. 11/24 and 25: No School,
Student Led Conferences
More information to come**

Please encourage your child to use this strategy for addition at home. If you need a reminder on how this algorithm works, you can watch an algorithm animation on the Everyday Math website, or look at the Algorithms Step by Step presentation found on our classroom website (see curriculum>math>algorithms step by step). Next week we'll be exploring two methods for multi-digit subtraction: counting up and trade first. **If you have not yet returned a signed copy of your child's first math test, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!**

Writing

We continue to work on personal narratives in writing. We have studied ways that published authors use their storyteller voice to make their writing more exciting to read. Students have been working on revising leads, using dialogue, thinking about making paragraphs longer, using more descriptive language, and going over stories with a writing checklist, then revising their work. Next week we will choose a piece to bring through the writing process of drafting, revision, editing and publishing.

Geography

We have been learning a lot about our state's geography. Please help your child study for his/her Maine mapping test next Friday. Be sure to look at the rubric to know how many lakes, rivers, mountains, and towns your child will be expected to know. You can use the maps I sent on Friday to help you practice. Students had a lot of fun last week as they began to create their own map of an imaginary place.

Other Reminders:

- Please look at and initial your child's homework assignment book and their reading log each night
- As you think about Halloween costumes for school, please remember costumes worn at school may not include elements of violence (swords, guns, etc.) or gore. Also, we will not have time to apply make-up for the school parade. Please save these items for your celebrations outside of school. Look for a sign-up genius coming soon with donation items for our party.
- Conferences are coming. I will be sending a sign-up genius soon for you to choose a time. Conferences in third grade are student-led. Your child must be present for our conference.

PUMPKINS WANTED

On Friday, October 31 we will be doing a fun **PUMPKIN MATH** activity in the morning. Are you able to donate a pumpkin? We will clean it out for you and you can take it home on Friday afternoon for carving at home! Let me know if you are willing to donate a pumpkin. We need at least 5 pumpkins. Thank you!

