

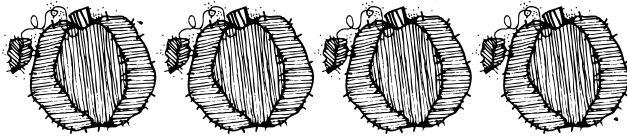


# First Grade News



From the Desk of Mrs. Ashby

## Pumpkins Aplenty, Pumpkins Galore!



Small pumpkins, large pumpkins, round pumpkins, bumpy pumpkins... we love them all! Our thematic unit, "Pumpkins Aplenty, Pumpkins Galore" continued this week with more exciting learning activities! First, we transformed our mini pumpkins into adorable spiders and did a great creative writing activity- it was fun to see just how imaginative these little ones are! We also had a GREAT time with our Pumpkin Centers- practicing math fact families, doing candy corn tens and ones counting, making "fact pumpkins," roasting pumpkin seeds & decorating picture frames. \* And that's not all... to add even more excitement to the week, our Room Moms thru an *incredible* Harvest Celebration!!

\* A HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated supplies!

### \* Pumpkin Patch Fun! \*

On Monday, we'll be heading the Pumpkin Patch! This will be a great culminating activity after 2 pumpkin themed weeks!

### \*A Couple of Changes THIS Week\*

\* No Book Buddy Bags Coming Home- please supplement with books from home

\* No Sight Words Coming home this

### \* Stone Soup! \*

I am SO excited to share with you that in November our class will be putting on a Reader's Theater for our first grade families! Each child will have an important part in our Reader's Theater play based on the famous story "Stone Soup." Next week you will get a note with more information highlighting the "play" and the Stone Soup Family Feast that will follow.

#### Here's what you need to know now:

\* Mark your calendars for November 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:15- 1:15- you won't want to miss this event!

\* I have attached the Stone Soup Reader's Theater part for your child. We will start practicing this in class the second week of November. It is extremely helpful when your child is already familiar with his/her part- so please include this as part of your nightly reading over the next week or two. THANKS!

### \* Conference Sign-Ups \*

All families will be meeting with me during the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> to review 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester progress. The window to sign-up for conferences STARTS TODAY. Go to the Westlake site for the link to pick your conference time (a sheet with more info on how to do this came home last Friday, too). Let me know if you have questions!

### \* Character Trait Assembly \*

We are hosting the November Character Trait Assembly on Wednesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 in the cafeteria... we'd love for you to come!

(Check Out the Math Ideas on the Back too)

Have a great weekend! Smiles, Mrs.

Ashby



# First Grade News



Math  
Ideas

for  
home!

## \* Math Game Ideas for Home! \*

As we wrap up for third math unit, relating subtraction and addition, next week I'd thought I would pass along some ideas for ways to reinforce the subtraction concepts in particular. You can play these "games" at your families' leisure! Hope you find them fun and enjoyable!

### \* Subtraction Games \*

As our third math unit covers subtraction- this can prove to be a more challenging unit than addition for some. To help master the concept of subtraction, I have been teaching some hands on games in class. If you notice your little one struggling with subtraction concepts, give these games a try at home!

#### \* Alligator Subtraction \*

1. Write a problem down:  $7-4=$  \_\_\_\_
2. Use some dried beans (we call these "swamp critters" in class) your first grader will take out the "whole number" (7) and put them in the "swamp"- this can simply be a green piece of paper or something your child decorates
3. Using their hand in the shape of an alligator's mouth, they will eat that appropriate number (4) to determine the answer.

#### \* Piggy Bank Subtraction \*

This game is very similar to Alligator Subtraction, but you use pennies (instead of dried beans) and a piggy bank (instead of an alligator hand)