

October 28, 2011

Dear Parents,

October has been a busy, eventful month. I'd like to thank all of the parents who helped with some of our activities including working in the classroom, volunteering in the library/computer lab, as well as those of you who will be making Halloween treats and helping at the Jump Rope for Heart event. Your help is truly a blessing.

Report cards are coming home next Friday. As a reminder, the report card is standards based. An E is for exceeds expectations, M means meets expectations, W stands for working on standard, and N means not at grade level standard. At this point, most first graders are receiving W as we have just started and are working on the individual standards being addressed. Working on the standard means that there is more work to be done on or with that standard as the year progresses. If a standard is not marked, we have not yet covered that standard. In co-curricular subjects, the grade is either P (Participates) or NP (Does Not Participate). For behavioral expectations and learning skills, students receive a number ranging from 1-4. The number code is on the report card, as well as the marking code for the standards. Please take time to review your child's report card, sign and return it to school. It's so exciting to see the progress the students have made since the first day of school!

Our class Thanksgiving potluck dinner is in a few weeks. It is scheduled for Friday, November 18th at 6:00 pm. More information will be sent home next week. I am still waiting to hear back from some of you as to whether or not you will be joining us. It's always nice to get together and have a delicious meal with good company.

Emphasis will be placed on the following topics this month:

RELIGION- The Holy Spirit, Our Church, The First Christians

BUILDING CHARACTER- Honesty

*MATH- Math facts practice, Subtraction Facts to 12, Geometry, Patterns*

*SOCIAL STUDIES- Our Country, American Symbols*

*SCIENCE- Matter Changes*

*READING/LANGUAGE ARTS:*

*Phonemic Awareness; Phonics/Decoding*

- \* inflected ending -s*
- \* inflected ending -ing*
- \* inflected ending -es*
- \* segmenting and blending*
- \* short e*
- \* consonant blends*
- \* short u*
- \* final blends*

*Comprehension*

- \* main idea*
- \* details*
- \* summarizing*
- \* predicting*
- \* categorize and classify*
- \* questioning*
- \* cause and effect*

*Spelling:*

- \* words with short e*
- \* words with short u*
- \* words with sh or th*

*Vocabulary Skills*

- \* classifying words*
- \* antonyms*

*Grammar*

- \* sentence structure*
- \* word order*
- \* statements vs. questions*

*Writing*

- \* personal narrative*
- \* realistic story*

*Share topics are listed below:*

- week of October 31 - talk/share about self*
- week of November 7 - something with fall colors*
- week of November 14 - free choice*

*week of November 21 - I am thankful for...*  
*week of November 28 - two objects that rhyme*

*I am looking forward to seeing all of you at conferences the week of November 7th and at our potluck dinner on Friday, November 18th.*

*Julie Brand*