

September 30, 2011

Dear Parents,

It seems as if the first full month of school has gone by quickly, yet we've done so much work! I'm amazed at how fast the students are learning. I admire their enthusiasm and determination.

Progress reports came home last week. I hope you took the time to review the report with your child, pointing out their strengths. If you have not already done so, please sign the progress report and return it to me. Phonics is an area that is especially important as we begin reading. I expect students to know their basic sounds and to start sounding out words, both orally and in their writing. Many are hesitant about using their "word attack" skills. Continued practice at home would help with both skills and confidence.

SAVE THE DATE!!!! On November 18th, I have scheduled the annual first grade Thanksgiving family potluck at 6:00 pm in Homer Crouse. More information will be coming home soon as I firm up some details. If anyone is interested in helping me with this, please let me know.

Below you will find the topics we will be covering this month, as well as share themes.

RELIGION

God's Love

The Good Samaritan

DECIDE (drug education)

Building Character-RESPONSIBILITY

MATH

Addition Sums and Subtraction Differences

SOCIAL STUDIES

People and Places

Focus on map skills

SCIENCE

Solids, Liquids, and Gases continued

LANGUAGE ARTS

Phonics: r, w, j, k, short e, y, /z/ spelled z and zz,
/kw/ spelled qu

Comprehension: plot, realism versus fantasy

Vocabulary: describing words(adjectives) and sorting words

Grammar: adjectives, describing places, sentences versus fragments

Writing: using adjectives in sentences, journal writing, completing a sentence

SHARE THEMES...

Week of October 3- object that has short a sound (anywhere in word)

Week of October 10-object that has short i sound

Week of October 17-free choice

Week of October 24-reminder of Halloween

Please visit our school website to reference the class newsletter each month. As for classroom volunteers, I sent out an email with a link to Sign-Up Genius. Thank you to those of you who volunteered for the month of October. I will send out the link for November volunteers in the next few weeks. I also encourage you to visit the website for our religion series. Go to www.faithfirst.com. We use the Legacy Edition of the book. For the students, they can go to the Kids' Clubhouse to review the chapter we are working on and check out the games and activities. For families, there is a link to the Sunday readings, prayers, and much more. A few weeks ago, I sent home the student password and log in for Mathletics. I have already heard the students talking about the points they are earning, all while enhancing their math skills! If you have questions about this, or anything else, please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to another successful month!

*Sincerely,
Julie Brand*