

School Street School

November 4, 2011



November Calendar

7,8,9 - Parent Conferences
Early Dismissal Days
9 - End of 1st Marking Period
10, 11 - No School -Teacher's Convention
18 - Report Cards sent home
23 - Early Dismissal
24, 25 - No School - Thanksgiving Recess
29 - Picture Make up Day (Please see announcement below)



December Calendar

2 - Winter Concert 1:15
9 - Winter Concert Snow Date
23 - Early Dismissal Day
26-30 - School Closed

Early Dismissal Schedule

Grades 1 - 3 8:00 -12:45
Kindergarten AM 8:00 -10:05
Kindergarten PM 10:40 -12:45
Preschool 8:00 -12:45

Student of the Month for October

PreK - Elizabeth Hamilton
AM K - Kalel Rodriguez
PM K - Tayla Szmak
1st - Alex Arici
2nd - Naomi Schlag
3rd - Hannah Glaser

Class Attendance Award for October - Mrs. Kelly's 3rd Grade Class

October monthly Million Minute Reading Marathon winners were:

K - Mrs. Viruet's PM class - 32% above goal
First Grade - a tie with Mrs. Paulozzo/Mrs. Houk - 24% above goal
Second Grade - a tie with Mrs. Bariso/Mrs. Mentone - 46% above goal
Third Grade - Mrs. Kelly - 100% above goal



Picture retake/absent pictures will be done on November 29, 2011.

Please make note of the following information:

1. There is a \$5.00 fee for retakes unless there is something wrong with the picture (eyes closed, hair falling in eyes, etc.)
2. Retakes will begin at 9:00
3. Any children from the PM kindergarten classes who need retakes or who were absent on Picture day must be brought to school in the morning if you want their picture taken.
4. Any child having retakes MUST return the complete original package. Retakes will not be done unless the package is returned.
5. Please call the office at 973-316-9225 to have your child's name put on a list for retakes or absent pictures and to have a picture form sent home with your child.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Dr. Chiodo - Well, Happy Halloween this week. I know that the holiday was not as smooth as we hoped with the snow causing extra fun, but we should be thankful that we made it out of the storm and that hopefully we are all now warm. That is a perfect transition to November, where we will be using Thanksgiving as our theme this month. Our first week we will be focusing on Scarecrows. Our younger students will be using this to address pre-writing/coloring skills, facial recognition, and body part identification/body awareness. Our older students will be using it as a writing prompt to work on descriptive writing while focusing on formation.

Mrs. Halliwell - SSS Art students are involved in a variety of artistic endeavors! First graders explored the world of three-dimensional art using paper bags and have now moved on to clay. The second grade is learning how early American settlers made their own clothes by weaving and are creating their own woven paper placemats. Finally, third grade students are about to begin a unit in printmaking. Throughout these activities and projects, SSS Art students are encouraged to think creatively and are taught to think critically. Teamwork is also stressed in the Art room as students work together to keep their studio space organized and clean.

Grade 1 - Our first graders were very excited to dress up in their costumes and celebrate Halloween parties and activities in their classrooms this past Monday. Thank you to all the parents who came to see us during the parade and for all those parents who donated supplies and treats for our classroom parties. It was fun to see so many scary, funny, creative, and brave costumes.

Just a few reminders to our first grade students and parents:

*Please remember to read your Guided Reading books when they come home and return them to school the next day.

*Take 10 Journals are due every Thursday. Each week your child should complete Box A and another box of their choice.

*Million Minute Reading Logs are due every Friday. Please be sure to sign the logs at the bottom.

*Remember to return your Friday Folders so that new notices can be sent home the following week. Please remove the contents of the folder and sign the outside cover.

Thank you for all your help and support at home.

Mrs. Kelly Gr. 3 - Thank-you to all the parents who came to help out and sent in goodies for our annual Halloween parade and party. We had many, many treats and the class had a wonderful time. In math we are working on triple digit addition and subtraction with zeros and regrouping. In reading, all guided reading groups are working in novels and we are currently reading The Tale of Desperaux as read aloud.

Mrs. Theiller - This week in Math we continued to graph the weather using positional words such as before and after, more, less and none. The children played I Have, Who Has Numbers to reinforce the recognition of numbers 1 - 10. We sorted objects by size, shape and color. In Language Arts, we continued with our Message of the Day which helps the children recognize letters and their sound. We played I Have Who Has Letters game which also reinforced letter recognition.

Second Grade News From room 205

We had great news for our class! We tied with Mrs. Mentone's class for the highest minutes for our Million Minute Math Challenge in second grade. Our class gets to keep the trophy for two weeks. We are doing phenomenal with this challenge, please remember to send your reading logs in each Friday.

This week we completed our math unit of tally taking, bar graphs, and pictographs. Our next unit will be on addition and fact families.

We are learning how to make nouns plural. We are identifying when words end with -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, z, and x, we add -es. We are also learning many different suffix endings and rules for them.

The children had a great time on Halloween. I want to say thank you to all the families who donated goodies, and supplies, Thank you also for our class moms, Mrs. Maggio, Mrs. Barosso, and Mrs. Figueroa for their help with the parade and party. We can't do it without you!

Ms. Cutugno - Gr. 2 - Our Halloween party was spooktacular and the students had a terrific time! This week, we are learning about two-syllable and compound words in Foundations, continuing to learn about animals in Science, tally's and graphs in Math, and finishing our narrative stories in Writing. We have our math and science tests this Friday. Science study guides were sent home on Monday so please study!

Mrs. Baseil - Bridges - This week in Bridges to Learning children practiced one-to-one correspondence by setting the table for family and friends. This important math skill is perfect to practice at home.

Ask your child to set the table based on the number of people sharing the meal. Challenge your helpers by asking them what would happen if grandma stopped by unexpectedly. How would this effect the table setting? Likewise, how would the table change if mom had to work late and couldn't be home for dinner?

This week we also discussed the topic that's been on our collective minds-----the lack of power. Turning this dilemma into a teachable moment, we brainstormed things we CAN and CAN'T do without electricity. For example, we discovered without electricity we CAN'T watch t.v., charge our cell phones, keep food cold in the refrigerator, work on the computer, or turn on the lights. Yet, without electricity we still CAN build with blocks, write and color, sit by the fire, work on a puzzle, play cards or a board game, read a favorite book and, last but not least, take a nap!

Reminders:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, are half days, dismissal is at 12:45. They are also our conferences. Please check your times. I will try very hard to stay on time, conferences are 15 minutes each.

Thursday and Friday- no school

Ms. Kovall - Gr. 3 - Did you have a good time at the Halloween parade? Students came dressed in their finest costumes and enjoyed marching for parents and teachers. In math we made math Halloween menus and used prices for each menu to answer different questions. We also made a school wide graph about everyone's favorite part of Halloween. In writing we continue to practice our opening paragraphs. This week events leading up to the problem were discussed. Students are eager to bring life experiences into their writing.

Ms. Spinner - Gr. 3 - Did the rare October snowstorm and three days without power keep me form my wonderful students? Though the snow may have changed some Halloween plans, the students enjoyed a Halloween parade and celebration. The students surveyed the students in first, second, and third grade to determine the favorite Halloween activity. Ask your child to share the results. In addition, the students enjoyed a cooperative project using a menu from the Doggy Stein Dinner. They had to plan a dinner with friends using this interesting menu, calculate the cost of their dinner, and determine their change. In language arts, the students read the poem "What's for Lunch" and answered questions. In addition, the class began to learn how to write the middle of a story. The middle paragraph must include events that lead to a problem, a problem, and attempts at a solution. To complete this weeks Edline challenge students must copy the riddle and attempt an answer.

I have streets but no pavement,
I have cities but no buildings,
I have forests but no trees,
I have rivers yet no water.
What am I?

I can't wait to see the answers! Remember school is closed early Monday - Wednesday next week for conferences and school is closed Thursday and Friday.

Mrs. Giannotti - PreK - Our annual SSS Halloween Parade was one of the highlights of this week's activities. We worked on following two-step directions and drawing vertical lines from "top to bottom" during Graphics Practice. The children enjoyed listening to, and participating in, the funny story Peanut Butter and Jelly, A Play Rhyme during Story Lab. We made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with finger paint!

Mrs. Viruet - K - Mrs. Viruet's Kindergarteners began our Autumn theme. We began by learning how a pumpkin grows from a seed into a pumpkin. The children read and made the book, "How a Pumpkin Grows." We also learned that a squirrel uses its tail: for warmth, to balance, as a parachute when jumping and as a sail when swimming. We made our own "bushy-tailed" squirrels to display in the classroom. What a fun week!

Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2 - The students in room 207 have finished our unit on plants. We have categorized plants. We've learned the parts of the plant and what each part does to help the plant grow. We have read about how the seeds of plants are scattered. Finally, we have learned how we use plants. The children were all shocked at how many plants we eat in a day and other ways that we use them in our lives. We had our end of the unit test on plants. We love plants!!! Now we are on to studying animals.

Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2 - In spite of a freaky fall snowstorm, an extended power failure, and a delayed opening, Room 206 students maintained their Halloween "spirits" and thoroughly enjoyed a day full of tricks and treats! The boys and girls displayed creativity, humor, a sense of history, and an admiration for story & movie characters as well as traditional "creatures" in their costume choices. Everyone enjoyed parading around the gym, especially because there was such a great turnout of relatives and friends! Following the parade the students attended an awesome class party. The food was creative, delicious, and abundant! The boys and girls also had a great time playing two fun games-- Boo Bingo and Mummy Wrap. The class partied until the final bell! A BIG thank you to all the parents who provided party food and supplies, and to those who helped out at the party. A special thanks to class moms Alicia Stichweh and Sonia Andican for organizing and running the party. The event was a great success!

Mrs. Hame - Spanish - Kindergarten: This week the children help "Count" from Sesame Street practice numbers to 20. We traced Spanish number words and numerals 1-10 and colored some Fall symbols.

First Grade: This week we continued to practice saying the words for parts of the body and finish putting together our calabaza body parts. We even made some finger puppets. The children really loved putting together their puppets! Please have your child practice the words each day, using their "pumpkin puppet"; as they will have a quiz on these words in a couple of weeks.

Second Grade: The children continued practicing the Spanish words for parts of the body and worked on a matching body parts activity. We sang a song while touching the parts of the body that matched the words in the song. Please have your child practice the words and song each day; as they will have a quiz on these words in a couple of weeks.

Third Grade: The children began their unit on Parts of the body and worked on an activity where they needed to use their song lyrics to write in the Spanish words that matched with the English words. We sang a song while touching the parts of the body that matched the words in the song. The children had a ball dancing and singing to this "catchy" song. Please have your child practice the words and song each day; as they will have a quiz on.

Mrs. Flynn - This week we finished talking about Halloween and other October related holidays. The students enjoyed dressing up and celebrating with their classmates. In our cooking following directions group, we made creepy, crawly fingers that we got to eat when we were finished! In math, we have started our Money Concepts unit. Students will identify coins and bills by label and value.

Ms. Pollina - K - Kindergarten students have been working hard to learn how to identify their alphabet letters and sounds, as well as how to write their lowercase letters. We are more than half way through our alphabet! We also continued our study on nocturnal animals, specifically owls and even

learned how pumpkins grow. Even with all that work, we managed to be able to have a Halloween party and Parade...boy have we been busy!

Mrs. Davis - Gr. 3 - This week we celebrated Halloween with a great class party. The children had a great variety of treats and we played Halloween Bingo.

In reading we are doing small guided reading groups and working on individual centers. The children are continuing to practice their RAFT skills with our class read aloud.

In math we are adding and subtracting larger numbers, working backward, finding perimeter, and using input, output tables.

In science we examined different organs in a microscope.

In social studies we are working on the states of the southeast and directions.

Mrs. Wieland - Week of October 31st, 20011: Students in 1st and 2nd Grade Resource Room have been enjoying listening to the special Halloween selections Mr. W and Ms. Wieland have been reading to them, sometimes TOGETHER! The children were really able to show off their creativity this month! The Halloween music has been a lot of fun to not only listen to - but clapping and dancing to, also! We will miss all of the sights and sounds of this month, but are ready to move on to November and all that this month brings. We have been working on differentiating between telling and asking sentences, avoiding run-on sentences, using at least 8 words in a sentence, beginning sentences with a capital letter and ending with a punctuation mark. There's so much to remember!

Math: The focus is now subtraction, so it is time to get out those subtraction flash cards you were given! The children have decided that they really "enjoy" addition; it is hard to remember how they struggled in the beginning! We now do timed Mad Minutes of Math for both addition and subtraction. They really need to practice their math facts for both, because before you know it, it will be time to learn multiplication. Students in 2nd Grade are responsible for their multiplication facts up through the 5s. All of the children have been practicing addition of 2 digits without regrouping. They are not yet ready to do the tricks for homework on their own yet!

Mrs. Harbeson - PreK - This week the Bridges to Learning preschoolers had a wonderful time at their Halloween Party, listened to spooky stories and enjoyed marching in the parade at School Street School. They also wrapped up the family play theme and began setting up for the next play theme: restaurants. Mrs. Smith's fourth grade class visited the preschool class for an enrichment activity. The children discussed the fall season and the changes that take place during that time. They also painted leaves using food coloring!