

School Street School

October 28, 2011



October Calendar
6- Picture Day

7 - Early Dismissal K-12
10 - School Closed
31 - Halloween Parade 1:00



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

CLASSROOM NEWS

Ms. Cutugno - Gr. 2 - This week our class is continuing to learn about basewords and suffixes in Foundations. We are learning that the suffix "ed" can make a /d/, /id/, and /t/ sound. A suffix can also change the meaning of a baseword. We have completed Chapter 3: Ordering Numbers in Math and are beginning Chapter 4: Tables and Graphs this Wednesday. We are continuing to practice our Mad Minutes and are progressing with our math facts. In Science, we have started Chapter 2: Animals. We are learning about classifying animals, their life cycles, and that all animals grow and change. We continue to write our narrative story rough drafts and are currently learning about the revising stage. Don't forget, this Wednesday is our class book fair and to send in money if you would like your child to purchase a book! We have had yet another eventful and productive week!

Grade 1 -This week our first graders celebrated Red Ribbon Week by wearing different colors and articles of clothing. We are working on many different things in our classrooms. We are learning how to read, write, and mark words with digraphs in Foundations, writing complete sentences with capitals and punctuation in our Strategies for Writers books, and using various strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems in math.

Our first graders are doing a fantastic job with our Million Minute Reading Marathon. Please continue to read every night and return your Reading Logs on Fridays. Also, a reminder that Take 10 Journals are due every Thursday.

On Monday, we will be having our Halloween parade and parties. The parade will begin at 1:00.

Students should bring their costumes in a bag with their name on it in the morning. If your costume has weapons, please leave them at home. We are looking forward to a fun time on Halloween!

Mrs. Kelly - Gr. 3 -In math, we are working on triple digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are working on "working backwards", a word problem solving strategy. We have started The Tale of Desperaux as a classroom read aloud. The "Take Ten" assignment has started and the next one is due Wednesday, November 2nd.

Dr. Chiodo - This week we are continuing our Halloween themed work. Students are working on cutting skills by tracing hands and cutting them out to make bats, and some lucky classrooms are carving pumpkins! The pumpkin carving is a great multi-sensory activity, not only do the students get to see the pumpkin on the inside and out, they also get to smell, feel and taste the pumpkin. We discuss shapes, size relationships and orientation as the lesson goes on.

Mrs. Bariso - Gr. 2 - This week in room 205 was violence prevention week. The children watched a very powerful movie about bullying. We discussed what we would do if the situation were reversed. We discussed ways to get help if they felt they were being the victim of bullying, and who to go to if needed. We also read a book called the Peace Book, and each child wrote what peace means to them. This is a great opportunity to discuss these issues with your child.

In math we finished up chapter 3, and will begin our unit on graphing, tallying and making surveys. The children should continue to practice flash card facts nightly, so that they will gain better mastery.

In Foundations, the children are learning about suffixes. We played a matching game, matching base words to the word with the suffix. We are learning the many different rules of when to add suffixes onto words.

We will be starting to write friendly letters in writing. The children will work on the five basic parts, and then compose a letter to someone. They are also continuing work on sentence structure, and identifying nouns and verbs. In language arts, we are working on synonyms, antonym, and homophones.

Halloween is quickly approaching, and I wanted to give you some information about the parade and costumes. Our parade is on Monday, October 31st, at 1:00. The children should bring their costumes to school in a bag that is labeled with their name. Any accessories or parts to their costume should also be labeled. Please refrain from sending in knives or guns.

Mrs. Viruet - K - Mrs. Viruet's KG concluded their study of nocturnal animals this week. The children learned that there are many animals & insects that are active during the night such as: owls, cats, mice, rats, opossums, bats, raccoons, moths, snails, foxes, coyotes and skunks.

Mrs. Davis - Gr. 3 - We started small guided reading groups this week. Children will be reading a novel at their independent reading level. We are continuing with a class read aloud and completing RAFT questions to go along with this higher level novel. The students are working on centers in all content areas.

In math we are subtracting with regrouping and working word problems backwards. We made a fall subtraction wreath.

In science we are examining a human skeleton. The students will see a model of a vertebrae.

In writing we are continuing to develop opening paragraphs and writing friendly letters.

Ms. Spinner - Gr. 3 -

Math

addition computation with 3 digits and 3 addends

subtraction computation with 3 digits and borrowing across 0

adding and subtracting money

solving 1 and 2 step word problems

computing change when making purchases from a menu

plotting points on a coordinate graph

measuring to nearest 1/2 inch and centimeter

Measuring squares, rectangles, and rectangles and then calculating perimeter

Rounding to nearest 10 and 100

Writing

Writing an opening paragraph with a juicy lead
Writing a response to a speculative prompt
answering open-ended questions using RAFT
writing a summary
writing text connections
modeling Take 10 assignments

Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2 - The students in room 207 are getting excited about Halloween. We have talked about safety and made Halloween safety pumpkins, and colored safety pictures in preparation for safe trick-or-treating. We read about bats, compared them to birds, and answered questions in our Scholastic News. We saw a video about Halloween Safety. Finally, in poetry, we read, illustrated and wrote about "The Teeny Tiny Ghost", and "Someone" Happy safe Halloween!

Mrs. Bednar - Gr. 3 - Students in Mrs. Bednar's class have been "working backwards" to solve problems in math. They are very proud that they are doing Algebra in third grade!

Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2 - Room 206 students have been working on map skills in Social Studies. During the past week they have focused on the United States map, locating our own state of New Jersey, and its three neighboring states, NY, PA, and DE. They noted on the map that the last two states to join our country, Alaska and Hawaii, are not actually connected to any of the other 48 states. As part of a homework assignment students checked off the names of states they've visited. Of course everyone has been to New Jersey! Besides our own state, New York had been visited by the most students, followed by Pennsylvania and Florida (tie), South Carolina, North Carolina, Delaware, and Maryland. Several students have traveled as far away as California. Mr. Wisniewski has traveled to almost every state! Students and teachers agreed that the "fifty nifty" United States are very interesting on the map and in real life, too.

Mrs. Sabatini - Speech - This week we talked about Halloween. We focused on pumpkins, jack-o-lanterns, costumes, and color. We discussed the difference between pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns. We also reviewed fall concepts and themes and discussed what color leaves are on the trees. We discussed spatial, temporal and size concepts. We continued to work on categories, synonyms, antonyms, answering "WH" questions, following directions, and describing objects. We worked on using our best speech sounds.

Mrs. Hame - Spanish - Kindergarten: This week we read: Dora's Perfect Pumpkin. The children reviewed the Spanish color words for September (rojo(a)/red) and October (anaranjado(a)/orange). They also practiced the words: ojos/eyes, orejas/ears, dientes/teeth, and boca/mouth. We made bat head bands by using the correct color to match the Spanish color words and colored a Dora Halloween picture. The children really enjoyed this project!

First Grade: This week the first graders listened to: Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead. They learned that this is not a sad celebration, but a happy time to remember their loved ones with food, music, and fun! This Mexican cultural celebration runs from October 31st-November 2nd. We reviewed the color words anaranjado/orange and negro/black. We also practiced saying the parts of the body by coloring a Jack-o-lantern containing the parts of the body Spanish words.

Second Grade: This week the Second graders talked about things that symbolize Halloween and Day of the Dead. The children learned about an old Mexican practice Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead through storytelling. Day of the Dead is a happy celebration in which Mexico and some Spanish countries celebrate to remember their deceased family members. The people begin preparing for this

celebration on October 31st and it runs through November 2nd. The children also practiced saying words for parts of the body and made a pop-up skeleton/skeleton that symbolizes Day of the Dead.

Mrs. Basiel - Bridges - E is for elephants! This week in Bridges to Learning we learned so much about these truly amazing creatures. Did you know that elephants are vegetarians? They eat about 300 pounds of food each day (that's as much as twelve cows eat each day) and they drink 3 gallons of water each day! Elephants use their trunks as both a hand and a nose.

Most interesting, we think, is the fact that elephants behave like us much of the time. They stay with their families for up to 20 years, living together in groups called herds. Elephants cry when they are sad and take baths each day just like us. They care for each other when they're sick and elephant aunts even babysit for their nieces and nephews just like we do! We were amazed to learn that some Asian elephants have even learned to paint. We saw some of their creative paintings in a book called Elephants Can Paint Too by Katya Arnold.

Mrs. Ragoza

Million Minute Reading Marathon Update

Year-to-Date Minutes Read	Year-to-Date Goal	Difference
121,565	97,800	Plus 23,765

Year to date we have exceeded our school wide Million Minute Reading Marathon goal by 23,765 minutes. Keep up the great work! Next week we will award the monthly trophy to one class in each grade level that beat its class goal by the greatest amount of minutes. Which classes will be our October winners?

Lucy Ragoza - Reading Specialist

Second Grade - My second graders have been building their reading skills through our Guided Reading lessons. This week we read non-fiction books and discussed the different features of a non-fiction book such as the Table of Contents, Chapter Titles, Photographs, Charts, Maps, Diagrams and Labels. Unlike a fiction story, a non-fiction book has many features that help us gather meaning about the subject. This week they learned about Air at Work and Rivers.

First Grade - My first graders have been developing their phonological awareness skills using a multi-sensory approach. This week they practiced their beginning blends. They are also building their fluency through sight word practice and poetry reading. This week we read Flapjack Flip Flops by Lucinda Cave which was full of beginning blends!

Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K - This week our preschool class enjoyed preparing for the upcoming Halloween parade. We talked about Halloween safety during our Opening Group time and Share the News. We made spider hand prints, and used silver glitter to create spider webs. The children enjoyed listening to The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle during Story Lab. The repetitive text enabled the students to become active listeners, and facilitated language and large group participation.

Ms. Kovall - Gr. 3 - Have you ever made a special menu? This week students worked on a special menu project. Ask your children about it. We have also been continuing using our opening paragraph formula to create interesting stories. In reading we are finishing up Donavan's Word Jar. Students and I discussed different connections to the book as well as practiced RAFT responses. In math we have been continuing strategies for word problems. Students have also been working with time and money. Students are making their way around the United States in social studies learning their states by region.

Mrs. Rodriguez - PT - This week we have been focusing on our trunk strength as it applies to being able to assume high level position changes. For some students, we have been working on transitioning from low position changes of rolling to side sit and then transitioning into higher level positions of quadruped, high kneel and 1/2 kneel where their balance is challenged even further by reaching and playing balloon volleyball. Some students practiced their trunk control on movable surfaces such as the swiss ball, rocker board and large bolster with reaching activities.

We have also been working on our running skills, playing the game red light, green light where the students need to rely on self regulation and motor planning to run and stop on command. We continued with our jumping skills as we practiced jumping over cones and bridges 3-4" off the ground. The students are showing nice carryover with their jumping skills!

In Mrs. Giannotti's Integrated Group, we focussed on self regulation by playing the game "red light, green light" where the kids had to run and stop on command. We also continued to work on our upper body strength by opening the heavy doors within the school by pushing and pulling open as well as we went "fishing" with wheelbarrow walking on our hands to pick up the fish in our path. The kids really enjoyed this activity and presented with good listening skills as they waited for their turn.

Friday YOGA: Thank you to Mrs. Houck for donating 12 brand new Yoga mats to our program. We will continue with our floor sequence and chanting!

- Lucy Ragoza, Reading Specialist

- Completed first month of the Million Minute Reading Marathon in all grade levels (pre -k to third) with stellar results! For the first 3 weeks of October, School Street School read 121,565 minutes and our school wide goal was 97,800 minutes. So, to date we have exceeded our school goal by 23,765 minutes.
- On the last day of the month, grade level trophies will be awarded to the one class in each grade level that beat its monthly reading goal by the greatest amount.
- Collected and began analyzing reading surveys distributed to parents as part of the Reading Marathon. We received 271 surveys back for an 83% response rate.
- Hope to secure an author for an Author's Visit in celebration of our Reading Marathon results. Began reaching out to contacts at Rutgers and at the International Reading Association. Since we have not funding for this event, may have to try to secure a grant if at all possible.
- Continuing to meet with my 20 second grade students and my 17 first grade students 3 to 4 times per week for 40 minutes.
- In second grade, focusing on providing reading support through Guided Reading lessons. Also working on developing fluency and vocabulary skills.

- In first grade, focusing on developing phonological awareness skills and on improving fluency through sight word recognition.