

# School Street School

October 7, 2011



October Calendar

6- Picture Day

7 - Early Dismissal K-12

10 - School Closed

31 - Halloween Parade 1:00

## CLASSROOM NEWS

**Grade 1** - Our first graders started the week with an assembly that focused on respect. Each day the students talked about what respect is and demonstrated ways to show respect. We made a pledge, decorated hands, designed posters, and read stories throughout the week. When your child comes home, have him/her share with you what they learned during this week of respect. Also, ask your child to think of people who are respectful and share the ways each person shows respect. Here are a few titles of books you can read at home: Let's Talk About Respect, Fill a Bucket, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, and The Lovables.

Please continue to read every night for the Million Minute Reading Marathon and return your reading logs. Look for a new reading log each week in the Friday Folder. Thank you for all your help and support at home to help your child become a successful first grader.

**Ms. Cutugno - Grade 2** - It's hard to believe that we have already been in school for a month! We have accomplished so much in the month of September and we are very excited as we go forth into October. In Math, we have completed Chapter 1 and started Chapter 2: Number Patterns. We continue to learn about glued sounds in Foundations and are doing a fantastic job at building words. Also, last week we have completed our chapter on plants in Science and have currently begun our Social Studies lesson on rules. We are also discussing Christopher Columbus and his significance in American history. We have finally started centers and reading groups. The class is doing a wonderful job on working independently during center time. We have started our Million Minutes Marathon on Monday. The reading logs are due every Friday in hope to fulfill our goal of each student reading 100 minutes a week. Keep reading, every minute counts!

**Mrs. Bednar - Grade 3** - Mrs. Bednar's students had a great time doing a Science activity this week with Mrs. Davis's class. The purpose of the activity was to learn that germs are everywhere but some places have more germs than others. We are also doing an activity each day to support our Week of Respect" at SSS.

**Mrs. Davis - Grade 3** - Our class completed a science experiment that gathered germs on potatoes. Students were able to see where they could find the most germs in School Street School. In reading

we completed our first story in the third grade basal. The students looked up words in the glossary, made predictions, picked a favorite part, completed a RAFT, and a connection. At the end of the story there was a multiple choice assessment.

In math we continued with 2 minute addition quizzes and began 2 minute subtraction. The students are also finishing up a unit on rounding and estimation.

In Social Studies we are recognizing the names of the 50 states.

**Mrs. Baseil - Bridges** - This week in Bridges to Learning the "Letter of the Week" is "B". Students incorporated literacy with health and nutrition. First, we recognized the sound that "B" makes. Next, we generated a list of "B" words including, bride, banana, bully, buddy, butterfly, blanket, brother, black, blue, brown, buzz, and even Baseil! Then, given a recipe and all the ingredients needed we made a special snack called "Bears in a Boat." Celery "boats" filled with peanut butter and teddy grahams, complete with a colorful sail, proved to be a yummy snack!

**Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K** - This week our preschool class enjoyed activities related to our SSS Week of Respect. We colored "respectful hands" to display outside our Guidance Office. One of our favorite stories during Story Lab was Hands Are Not for Hitting by Martine Agassi. We talked about the life cycle of a pumpkin in anticipation of our field trip to Hamilton Farms. Thank you to the PTA for your continued support in making our trip a hands-on experience to remember!

**Dr. Chiodo - OT** - It is October already, and we are going to be using Halloween as our theme all month long! Some of our younger friends in the preschool will be working on their cutting and matching skills using different designs on pumpkins. Other students will be using their eyes and hands by working on word searches, crossword puzzles, and writing tasks that involve Halloween terminology.

**Mrs. Hame - Spanish - Kindergarten**: This week we learned the names of parts of our face. The children named the parts of the face and created a poster. They were excited to have met Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head and play a game with them.

**First Grade**: This week we applied what we learned in the month of September. The children were asked to circle pictures that identify the correct spoken word/phrase. They also worked on a cutting and pasting identification assessment activity.

**Second Grade**: This week we went over all of the vocabulary we have learned in the month of September. We will be taking a Quiz next week, to see how much we remember.

**Third Grade**: This week we worked on reviewing all of the vocabulary we have learned in the month of September. We are now ready to take an assessment of what was learned; next week.

**Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2** - The first week in October brought refreshing temperatures and exciting activities to Room 206 students. Students have "officially" begun the Reading Marathon, as well as at home flash card practice; they should keep their reading logs and math study calendars handy to record their efforts. Reading logs are due every Friday, math calendars at the end of each month. "Take-10" Journals were sent home in the Oct. 7 Friday Folder. The inside cover contains writing choices (with point values). There is also an October calendar containing vocabulary words to use each week. "Take-10" Journals are due every Thursday and will be sent back home in the Friday Folder. All this "new stuff" will soon become routine!

The boys and girls participated in numerous "Week of Respect" activities, including attending an assembly, drawing pictures, paying compliments, decorating hand cutouts, reciting a special "Pledge of Respect", and listening to related stories. So far they have done a fine job of living up to the pledge, demonstrating care and concern for their classmates and others in the school community.

**Mrs. Bariso - Gr. 2** - This week the children have been working on identifying bonus letters in Foundations. We have also been practicing the many vowel teams, and glued sounds. Through games, we are learning how to spell these words, and when we need to use the bonus letters. We are going step by step through the writing process- drafting, writing, editing, while we write stories about ourselves. We continue to identify the naming and telling parts of a sentence. We practiced sentence writing, and made sure each of our sentences had both parts.

**Mrs. Sabatini - Speech** - This week we started to talk about fall. We learned and reviewed many of the vocabulary words associated with this season, participated in fall language activities and worked on our speech sounds relating to fall activities. We will be starting to make a tree using vocabulary words and categories (e.g., each leaf will have vocabulary words or three items that belong in the same category). We will also try to come up with fall items that have our speech sounds in them to put on the leaves.

**Mrs. Theiller - Pre K** - This week the children continued to make play plans and carry them out in their chosen centers. The children began practicing printing their names on the top of their play plans. We practiced our fine motor skills in graphics practice, making spirals and lines. In math, the children practiced counting and one to one correspondence working with a partner and using counters.

**Mrs. Viruet - K** - Mrs. Viruet's Kindergarten class began our safety theme. We also discussed respect, kindness and caring with the rest of the school. The children were able to show examples of respect and talk about the topics well. The children made the book "Marvelous Manners" and showed their manners to their classmates.

**Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2** - We are off and running! We are independent in our center work and have started guided reading in our classroom. The children are working quietly at their seats while I am reading with small groups. I am proud of how well they are working by themselves. We seem to be able to get a lot accomplished. In math, we have been comparing and ordering numbers. This is a skill that can be confusing to the children, but can be practiced at home. We will have our test on ordering numbers to 100 next week.

**Ms. Spinner - G. 3** - \*Notice the log has changed. In addition, to the new goal of 225 minutes. Students must record the title of book read on the back of the log. This change is to help us meet the million minute school goal. Each week, the students will calculate the minutes read. Then, the class minutes will be added to our pledge poster, so we can track the number of minutes read.\*\*\* You will not believe how the third graders worked this week! In language arts, the class learned a recipe for starting a story. The first sentence is a juicy lead sentence. Next, is a setting sentence plus a description of something that is seen. The next sentence is about something that is heard, and finally, the characters are introduced in the last sentence. In addition, the students reviewed RAFT, a strategy for answering open-ended questions. R: Restate, A: answer, F: find support and T: text connection. We practiced this RAFT strategy after reading the story Arthur Writes a Story. Hooray! The class shouted when we finished reading How to Be Cool in Third Grade. As a culminating activity, the class summarized the story and made posters with a partner. In addition, the class started practicing Take 10. Each box will be modeled before sending it home for homework. In math, we finished our rounding unit. The students proved that they were expert rounders! The class also practiced subtraction with 3 digit numbers. Finally, the students learned to calculate perimeter for squares and rectangles. Exhausted! I think the class is ready for the weekend.

**Mrs. Wieland** - Week of October 3rd, 2011: The children read books about Johnny Appleseed, and then answered comprehension questions, prompting a group discussion prior to a writing assignment. Some of the skills practiced were: following directions, brainstorming, recalling information,

organization and sequencing of information, writing complete sentences, and rereading written work aloud to check. 1st and 2nd graders are working on writing/composing/copying from the board skills every day.

In math class, the children have been using number lines and counting up or down to perform addition and subtraction as appropriate. All of the children are doing a nice job recalling the +1s and doubles facts, practiced both at home and school daily. They are still encouraged to use the hand motions as necessary for recall. We are aiming toward accuracy and speed.

**Ms. Pollina - K** - In addition to our traditional academic learning, Kindergarten students have been participating in a "Week of Respect" here at School Street School. We have learned about what it means to be respectful and how we can show it in school and at home. We have taken a pledge to be bully free and created a handprint that will be displayed in the hallways of our school. We also participated in a poster contest that demonstrates respect and have read some books about that teach us about respect.

#### **Mrs. Ragoza - Million Minute Reading Marathon Update**

Thank you parents and guardians for taking the time to complete our Million Minute Reading Marathon Kick Off Questionnaire. So far I've received over 200 surveys back for a 70% response rate. We are looking for a 100% response rate, so if you haven't done so already, please complete the quick questionnaire and return it by tomorrow. Also remember that the first Reading Marathon logs are due tomorrow Friday, October 7 and every Friday after that through the end of May.

School Street School students will be "reading around the town" on our Marathon Map. Our school wide goal is to read 65,000 minutes for each stop the map. The first stop is the Boonton Public Library. Let's see how close they can get to the library in just their first week of reading towards 1,000,000 minutes!

#### **Reading Update**

Since it is Week of Respect at School Street School, my first and second grade students focused on what it means to be kind and respectful to each other. We read a poem called Be Kind by Patricia Gatto and we read story called Franklin's New Friend by Paulette Bourgeois. Each student was given a Word Wizard notebook. In their notebooks, they will keep track of the new and powerful words they learn through poetry and read-alouds. By the end of the year, they will all become Word Wizards through their knowledge and use of more powerful words. Developing a strong vocabulary is critical to reading success. Strong vocabulary develops over a lifetime of broad and deep reading. Please point out interesting words while you read with your child and discuss what they might mean by using context clues and word parts.

**Ms. Kovall - Gr. 3** - Do you know what goes into a good first paragraph? This week we have been learning about opening paragraphs. The students have been given a "recipe" for an opening paragraph including a juicy lead, something they see and hear and introduce their characters. The kids have creatively come up with many different things we hear and see. Did you know that 1,000 germs can fit onto on pencil eraser? Students in room 208 have been learning about germs and how to prevent them. Check out our posters in the hallways! In math we continue to review adding and subtracting with multi-digit numbers and we are trying to improve on our daily mad minute facts.