

News From Miss McMorrow's Room

Looking ahead to September 19 - 23

"My beliefs about children and writing are based on three assumptions: 1) young children can write 2) young children want to write 3) young children possess the knowledge, interests, and experiences to write about."

Carol Avery, *And With a Light Touch*

Don't Forget

- We're still collecting **environmental print** (readable trash).
- Our school is collecting **Caprisun** pouches (or similar brands) for the rest of the year, minus the straws. We'll earn 2 cents per pouch. Send yours in!
- Thanks for helping your child be ready to walk in the classroom and learn by **8:05**.
- Put **October 14th, Fall Family Festival** from 6:00 - 8:00 on your calendar. Our PTA is sponsoring a fun family evening.
- We're collecting **used books** for our Fall Family Festival. Look in their Frog for info.
- We're collecting **Box Tops and Soup Labels**. Your child has been provided with a ziploc bag as well as directions. Look in their Frog.

Reading Workshop

We're still reviewing the alphabet and the following sounds specifically: a, f, m, n, s as we blend simple words together. We'll be focusing on reading and writing these snap words: was, are, you, in. We talk a lot about "chunks" too. For example, "th" (the motor chunk), "ow/ou" (the Bandaid chunk), and "sh" (the quiet brothers) to name a few. I hope your child learns that: Strong readers read every day, talk and think about books, read everything in sight, and take care of books.

Writing Workshop

Strong writers write every day. I don't tell them what to write about. They choose their own meaningful topics - themselves. The next time your family experiences a moment that's funny, scary, interesting, sad, etc. you say say, "Oh my. You've just got to write about that during writing workshop at school!" Can you do that for me? The greatest stories are happening daily and waiting for a first grader to write about them. Look on the back of this newsletter to see what some of our writers are writing about these days.

Tammy's Tips

Early readers need lots of strategies in order to start acting like readers. I tell them to check the picture. Some readers are beyond this stage, while others need the pictures for support. Instead of covering up the pictures, allow your child to use them. Make sure that your child is pointing to the words though. That will help draw their attention back to the words. As their strategies develop, they'll use the pictures less and less.

Math Workshop

We're inventorying the classroom. What a great way to work on number sense and how to count efficiently. We're learning that grouping objects by 10's works wonderfully. What kinds of things could your child inventory for you? I've got a math website I'd like to invite you to. I'll be posting our first addition to it this weekend. Come check it out.
www.missmcmorrow.wikispaces.com

Theme: Names

We're studying names. There's so much to learn about literacy from our favorite words - our own names!

Handwriting

We'll be working on letters Nn - Rr. We're learning that letters start at the top, not bottom. We'll also be working on how to position letters on lines.

Ask Me about...

Ask your child to teach you the secret codes for A - M. Ask your child to teach you sign language. Ask your child to show you Aroostasha. Ask your child to count by 10's to 100 (**important**). Ask your child about compassion and crumpled hearts. Ask your child about the motor chunk. Ask your child to read their poems in their Poetry Anthology (located in their Frog).