



Our 1st Grade Classroom News



The Week of September 24th - 28th

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Important Info

-Our class is REALLY struggling with talking over me when I am talking, playing around, making animal sounds, and being very disruptive in class. If you could talk with your child about what a whisper looks and sounds like, that would be great. If you could also mention appropriate times to play around (rolling around on the carpet, throwing things at one another, shouting back and forth with a friend, etc), that would be great as well! I am trying to find more times for them to let out their energy during the day to help but I think talking to you about it will help as well. This issue is really starting to affect how much I can get done in a day so any help I can get is appreciated!

-We will be practicing short 'u' words this week (reviewing a, i, o, and e as well).

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Tech of the Week

Website of the Week: [Life Cycle of a Frog](http://www.life-cycle-of-a-frog.com) is a great website to show students how a frog changes. We have been talking about how animals and plants change quite a bit. On this website, students can click on each stage of a frog's life cycle to learn more!

<http://goo.gl/2doQ7>

App of the Week: [Talking Tom](http://www.talkingtom.com) is always a fun one for all :-). Talking Tom is a cat that will repeat anything that you say to it. He has a squeaky voice so it makes a bit more fun for the kids. There is a way to have everything you say to him recorded so he says it all at once when you play it back. In the past, I have had students in the past read to Talking Tom (while having it record) and then have Talking Tom read it back to them as they follow along in the book.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 27th Fall Pictures (am)
Oct. 5th Walk-a-thon (9-10am at MS track)
Oct. 12th No School

Challenges of the Week

Math Challenge of the Week: We have been working on finding the missing part of a subtraction number sentence. Write down 5 to 10 problems that look similar to this: $9 - \underline{\quad} = 5$ and have your child solve them. How we tried solving these in class is we drew the whole number of circles (9 in the example problem) and crossed off the part we knew (5 in the example problem). The circles that are not crossed off is the missing part. See below for example. Use higher numbers for more of a challenge.

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Reading Challenge of the Week: Have your child make predictions before and during their book. What do they think is coming next? What will be the main problem in the book? An example would be during a reading group last week, we read a book about a cat having kittens. We made the prediction that the little girl in the story was going to get one of the kittens. We were able to confirm our prediction at the end of the story when she got to pick one out! This strategy is great to help comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Have your child write down what they predicted and then explain if their prediction was correct or not.

Writing Challenge of the Week: The students are working on their writing stamina. Many students spend a minute writing and yell 'IM DONE' without even going back to check what they wrote. Give your child a timer and set it for 5 minutes. Tell them they are not allowed to stop writing until the timer goes off. Have them come up with a topic before starting the timer. When they are done, go back and reread their writing with them. What words could they go back and stretch out a bit more? Have them write their story in their homework notebook! Feel free to add more time for more of a challenge!