Class Newsletter April 10, 2015

Dear Parents and Families,

This week the field trip form for Shelburne Farms came home in your child’s backpack. My intention was to get it out sooner in the week, I apologize. The form says for it to be back on Monday, but Tuesday will be just fine. More information regarding the trip is below. Thank you!

Here’s a summary of what we learned this week:

**Reading – Author Study:** Our learning target is ***I can* *study an author to learn about their themes, characters, and writing style.*** This week we launched our author study unit. Students are learning all about author Leo Lionni as we explore several of his texts.  We are taking a closer look at the story elements like; characters, setting, problem, solution, and the “so what?” or theme of the text. The matrix we are creating allows us to compare Lionni’s texts and notice similarities and differences. Students are sharing what they are noticing about this author’s unique style. Ask them what they know about his craft, style, characters, and themes so far!

**Integrated Studies- Science: Light Unit-** We wrapped up our light unit in science this week. First graders acted as engineers and designed ways to communicate the commands, “Go away!” and “Come here!”, by only using light. Some communicated this by flashing a light on and off a number of times to mean one of the commands. Through this process students practiced testing, modifying, and designing solutions to an engineering problem. Our final assessment came back to our anchor text, *Moonbear’s Shadow*, by Frank Asch. The class demonstrated their understanding of light and why bear couldn’t get away from his shadow by drawing a picture of bear outside with the sun out and including where bear’s shadow would be in relationship to the light source. Up next in science is our unit on the moon!

**Math –** Our Learning Target is, ***I can use problem solving strategies flexibly and show my thinking.*** Students are practicing carefully reading story problems and understanding what information they are given in the problem and what they are solving for. They are selecting various strategies to solve the problems. Students are beginning to recognize that although stories may be subtraction problems, they can apply many strategies such as counting on, counting back, taking from ten, or getting to ten to accurately solve challenging problem types.

**Word Work –** Our current *Fun*dations unit is: Compound words, two syllable words**. Example words include:** backpack, cupcake, basketball, suntan, bathtub, public, picnic, frantic

Sight words we studied and quizzed this week: **friend, same, tell, boy, girl**

Next week’s sight words**: came, want, also, small, three**

**You can find all our sight words to date, as well as what’s coming up next at**

http://mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com/word-work.html

**Some other logistics:**

* **Our FIELD TRIP to Shelburne Farms is this Thursday, April 16th.** Please, have these forms back to me by Tuesday, April 14th. Thank you!
* **SCHOOL PLAY, “*The Great Squirrel Uprising”* is on Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30pm.**
* **SPRING RECESS, No School April 20th to April 24th.**

Please feel free to contact me anytime, and please check out our website!

Sincerely,

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