Class Newsletter May 1, 2015

Dear Parents and Families,

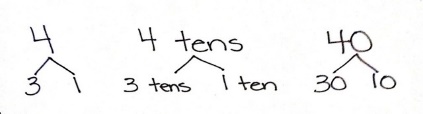
Welcome Back! I hope you all had a fun and relaxing spring break. On Wednesday I sent home a yellow letter informing you of my upcoming maternity leave starting May 18th. If you didn’t receive this notice or the email with the notice attachment please contact me and I will send along another copy. I am also working on a date for a picnic at Oakledge Park my last week of school. If you would like to help organize this event please contact me, thank you!

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

**Integrated Studies- Author Study - Readers’ Workshop** Our learning target is ***I can* *study an author to learn about their themes, characters, and writing style.* Writers’ Workshop** Our learning target is ***I can use an author’s craft to write my own story***. We’ve been having a lot of fun studying Leo Lionni’s author’s craft.  This week we continued to read Lionni’s texts and think about the similarities we noticed in his story elements. We took a closer look at how Leo Lionni starts his stories by introducing the main character and setting right away, two important elements every good writer includes in their writing. Additionally, the class examined the descriptive language he uses that helps his readers visualize what is happening in the text, which keeps the readers interested and engaged. First graders then took this knowledge back to their own writing. They did such a nice job of changing less exciting words like “big” and “fast” to more interesting descriptive words such as “gulped” and “darted”. Next week we will start illustrating our storyboards by collaging, just like Leo Lionni. Ask your child to tell you about their storyboard.

**Math –** Our Learning Target is, ***I can use place values to help me add and subtract two-digit numbers.***

This week students used their knowledge of 10 more and 10 less to extend the concept to adding and subtracting multiples of 10. First graders practiced representing the addition of ten more with concrete objects and number bonds, first using the numeral and then writing as *units* of ten, as shown to the right. After creating these number bonds for several examples, students noticed that only the *unit* changed (e.g., 3 bananas + 1 banana = 4 bananas, just as 3 tens + 1 ten = 4 tens). As students explored, they saw that this relationship is present, even when adding more than 1 ten. They came to realize that 2 tens + 2 tens = 4 tens, just as 2 + 2 = 4. Students also explored this relationship with subtraction, seeing that 4 tens can be decomposed as 3 tens and 1 ten and that 4 tens – 3 tens = 1 ten, just as 4 – 3 = 1. This was then extended to adding multiples of 10 to two-digit numbers that included both tens and ones. They recognize that, when tens are added to a number, the ones remain the same.



**Word Work –** Our current *Fun*dations unit is: **Suffixe –s, -es, -ies** Plural words that end in s, ss, ch, sh, x, or z add the suffix –es. Ex: **glasses, faxes, foxes, dishes**. Plural words that end in y, drop the y and add the suffix –ies. Ex: **cherries, babies, flies**.

Sight words we studied and quizzed this week: **wouldn’t, shouldn’t, couldn’t, show, by**

Next week’s sight words: **called, why, place, away, still**

**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:**

* **Reminder: school starts at 8:08.** Students that come late to school are missing much of Morning Meeting which is an important time of our day where we build our classroom community. Thank you for your support with this.
* **Mrs. Galusha’s maternity leave starts Monday, May 18th.** Shannon McCarthy will be the substitute for the rest of the school year.
* **Oakledge Park Picnic week of May 11th, date to be determined**. Please contact me if you can help with this event.
* **Monday, May 25th NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day**

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

Sincerely,

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