



Sleepy Hollow
School
Mrs. Smith's First Grade

October 16, 2008

This Week in First Grade

Things are moving along smoothly in our classroom these days. The students have settled into routines and are making transitions quickly and quietly to make good use of our time. There's so much to learn--every minute counts!

The reading folders have more and more "just right" books as students are finding books at their independent reading levels. We have started working in small groups as we transition into our guided reading instruction.

Our reading stamina as a class has increased to seven minutes. Our goal is eight minutes, so we are almost there. We will then work on reading with a partner and building on our stamina. We have also been learning about visualizing, activating our schema, and making connections to help us understand what we read.

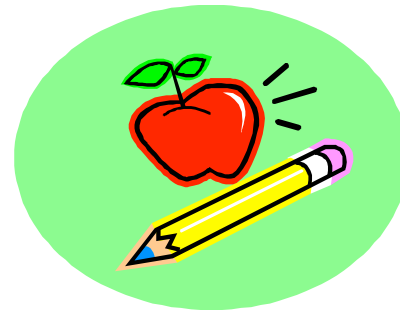
Our review of Jolly Phonics is complete and we revisit the sounds of ai, ay, ng, sh, th, ch, qu, and the vowel songs. These are then connected to word chunks and families to help us decode unknown words.

Each week we are adding eight new words to our word wall. These words are to be recognized instantly (2-3 seconds) and not sounded out. If your student missed five words or more, a list was enclosed with the midterm report. It is very important to keep up with those words. They are some of the most frequently used, so if they are not familiar, reading progress is hindered.

We have also been working on writing complete sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark--period, question mark, or exclamation mark. Writing neatly and making our letters correctly is being reinforced as we do this.

In math we have been practicing adding, learning to count up on a number line to find the answer. We have also been counting up by clapping and in our heads so that we can get the answer more quickly and accurately. Solving number stories is also a skill that we have been practicing. The process we use is to read the problem carefully, underline the important words, circle the important numbers, then draw a picture and write the number sentence. Students have the process down using addition and soon we will use the process for subtraction.

Our study of our five senses is almost complete. We have been learning how to observe like a scientist and explore how our senses work. We had fun with the hands on experiments.



Our web site is working once again and, in addition to activities and links to great sites, the homework and word wall words are posted each week. The address is:

www.d300.org/web/schoolsites/sleepyhollow

Click on Curriculum Connections, then on first grade.