

1J News

October 24, 2008

Today is the 36th day of first grade.

Our field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts is set for Monday, October 27. We will be leaving school at 9:15 and should arrive back shortly after noon. Please make sure your child brings both a snack and lunch on Monday - **we will not be able to order school lunch**. Thank you very much to all of the parents who volunteered to chaperone. Daniela Rivera and Diane Prus will be joining us.

I am looking forward to meeting with you at fall conferences, which begin next week. If you have a particular concern, question, or topic you want to discuss that I may not be aware of, please let me know before our conference so I can be properly prepared.

We finished our balance unit this week and the children are bringing their journals home today. In this unit the children had an opportunity to build beam balances, equal arm balances, and mobiles. They explored ways in which weight affects balance and compared and weighted objects to then place them in serial order according to weight.

1J has begun to talk about the Presidential election. The children at Hunnewell School will have an opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice on Tuesday, November 4. While we will be reading books and having discussions about voting in general, please include your first grader in family discussions you have about the choices for President and Vice President of the United States. This will be a ground breaking election, whatever the outcome, and it is important that our children are aware of its significance.

We took a short detour from our read aloud, Ragweed, to read Flat Stanley. This book is about a boy who gets flattened by a bulletin board and then has many adventures. One of his most memorable adventures is being put in an envelope and mailed to California to visit his cousin. The children in 1J will be making their own Flat Stanley shapes and sending them to a friend or family member. We will include a letter with him, asking the recipient to entertain Flat Stanley for a short time and then return him to Hunnewell School. Please complete and return the envelope sent home today. Also, please let me know if you are able to help us in the classroom on Thursday, October 30.

Next week the first grade classes will begin Word Work. Three times each week the children will work in a homogenous group to focus on phonetic skills. Your child may work in a group with Mrs. Byrnes, Mrs. Lilley, Mrs. Cannon, or me, depending upon his or her needs. This arrangement proved very successful last year and I am confident in its success this year as well. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Please make note of the week you child will be the 1J All Star. This is a special week for each child and coming to school prepared with the proper materials makes it feel even more special.

In Open Circle we practiced using nonverbal signals to communicate. I am sending home a copy of the signals we use in 1J. We also practiced giving and receiving compliments. Next Monday's homework will involve compliments, so be prepared!

Looking Ahead

Friday, October 24 - 1J Parent Social 7:30pm

Monday, October 27 - Trip to Museum of Fine Arts

Friday, October 31 - Halloween parade, 8:45-9:30am

Tuesday, November 4 - Noon dismissal - Fall Conferences

Tuesday, November 11 - No school - Veterans Day

Friday, November 14 - Hunnewell Sock Hop

Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 - No school - Happy Thanksgiving

Monday, December 1 - No school - Professional Day

Monday, December 15 - Construction workshop for Ghanaian play -
Parent volunteers will be needed - more information will follow after
Thanksgiving break

Friday, December 19 - Ghanaian performance "The Singing Drum"
10:30-11:00 in the music room - families invited

Tuesday, December 23 - School dismissed at 3:05 for December
vacation

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