

1J News

September 26, 2008

Today is the 19th day of first grade.

Our nature walk is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, at 2pm (raindate: Tuesday, October 14, at 2pm). At this time we have 3 volunteers, which will make the groups quite large. It would be helpful to have at least 2 more volunteers. Please let me know if you can join us.

The children each have a word ring on which we have strung 25 high frequency words. They are encouraged to practice these words (both reading and writing them) whenever they have a minute. At the end of each quarter we will add 25 more words, for a total of 100! This is a great writing tool they can use everyday. You can find a list of the first 25 on the newsletter webpage.

As a precursor to Writer's Workshop, we have been completing reading response activities; we read a book and the children respond to a question or direction with words and pictures. As the children write, they are asked to "stretch" out the words and write as many sounds as they can. They each also have a Word Wall card, which lists many frequently used words and on which I write any words they ask me to spell - another great resource they will use all year.

This week we began our balance unit. The children experimented with a paper alligator to find out how to balance it on a pencil. Then they attached a paper clip to the alligator and saw how that affected the balance. They also used small wooden balance beams, fulcrums, and cubes and tried several ways to balance the beam. They saw that the position and number of cubes on the beam and the position of the fulcrum changed how well the beam balanced. Next week the children will build and use equal arm balances.

Thank you for supporting your child in returning the reading log EVERYDAY. Daily reading is a great habit to form and it is linked to developing a life long love of reading.

Some Business Reminders and Notes

I have posted the fall conference schedule on the newsletter webpage. If your child's name is not listed, please send in your form as soon as possible. If you are not able to meet at your scheduled time, please let me know.

Please complete and return the forms you received at Back to School Night as soon as possible.

We use a lot of disinfectant wipes in 1J, so we always welcome donations. The children understand the importance of keeping the room as germ free as possible.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, September 30 - No school - Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, October 9 - No school - Yom Kippur

Monday, October 13 - No school - Columbus Day

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

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

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

Lori

lori_janiuk@wellesley.k12.ma.us

781-446-6275 ext. 406

