

News from Mrs. Surmeier's First Grade Campsite

April 27, 2012

Dear Parents,

Another week is gone and the end of the year is getting nearer and nearer. Please check out our scholastic magazine and get some new books for the summer.

Although the year is quickly coming to an end, please help your child stay focused on school by being sure they get plenty of sleep and are in school as much as possible. We are very busy and learning so much.



Beginning Monday, every child will be given the opportunity to read a short book (approximately 10 minutes) to the class. If they would like to read a chapter book, they can read one chapter. A calendar will come home on Monday with your child's date.

Please remember I am always available for questions or concerns.

Religion: We talked about Jesus welcoming the children this week and how God promises the kingdom of God to those who are like children. We will be coordinating the Mass on Monday and the children are very excited. I hope you can join us.

Reading/ Language Arts
We are now into our "Being Afraid" Unit and the stories are very cute. We are working on learning to draw conclusions from pictures and inferences. We are also practicing comparing and contrasting. In writing this past week, we used similes when describing the colors of a rainbow and we had fun fingerpainting rainbows. We have also been practicing our sight words so please continue to practice them at home. Lately I have been very impressed with the children's ability to write dictation - writing words without previously having them on a spelling list. This is phonics in action ☺ When at home, encourage your child to proof read their work for spelling errors and correct it.

Please remember to review sight words. At this point, your child should be able to spell the most common sight words in their writing.

Thank you for sharing your children with me. They are a blessing and bring many smiles to my face.

Science/ Social Studies: Our Space unit was totally awesome. The kids really loved it and could barely contain their enthusiasm as we learned about the planets and drew the solar system. Ask them if they can tell you all the planets in order? One acronym now is "My very educated mother just served us noodles. (No Pluto)

We begin insects next week.

Math: We will be taking a place value test on Monday and then will delve into fractions. We are taking almost daily addition and subtraction time tests so please help your child with the facts. One of the websites children like to use in the classroom is through our math publisher- macmillanmh.com. Practice only takes 5-10 minutes a day and they feel great when they ace the time test.