



Mrs. Thomas' Classroom Newsletter

Family Projects

As we move towards the busy holiday season, we are discussing how families are alike and different, how families meet our needs, what are needs vs. wants, and family traditions. To this end, we have sent home a few family projects. Please enjoy the time together and discuss what makes your family unique and special. It is also a time to recognize the differences we see in other families, and how to be respectful of those differences rather than judgmental.

Math

We are taking a closer look at numbers, and what they mean. What does MORE THAN mean? LESS THAN? What little numbers are hiding inside of 10? 7? How many different ways can I make 8? What do ODD and EVEN mean? How high can I count? Can I count by 2's? 5's? 10's? Can I count backwards from 10? 20? 100? What are ordinal numbers? We continue to practice early addition strategies as we discuss number sense, which keeps us very busy!

Language Arts

We have been very busy every morning reading and writing. So far we have discussed several reading strategies: looking at picture clues, looking at the first letter of a word, looking at and sounding out all the letters of a word, and looking at whole chunks of words we may already know (ing, er, str, ch, etc). We have also talked about the importance of reading for deeper understanding, and how to smooth out our voices when we read so we don't sound like robots! Please model these practices at home during your reading time together, when you find it appropriate!

Our writing unit has been about writing personal narratives. These do not have to be fantastical moments from our lives...like a vacation to Disney or a cruise. Stories are all around us, and if we watch carefully, we can find little memorable moments everywhere to write about, like going grocery shopping or riding to school every day! The important thing is to add details to make our writing come alive!



Science

We looked at the life cycle of a pumpkin and compared it to the life cycle of an apple. We talked and wrote about bats, and even looked at live bat cams online! Very cool! See if your little one can teach you all about these amazing flying mammals! Coming up we will be discussing animals in winter, including migration, hibernation and adaptation.



THANK YOU !!!

We had our harvest party on Wednesday morning. Thank you so much to everyone that volunteered to bring in treats, and to those who came in to help! I really appreciate it!

Report Cards

Looking ahead, we have report cards coming up in December. We have 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days set aside for parent teacher conferences. If you have not yet made an appointment, please email or message me and we will set up a time!

We are having an amazing year together so far in room 17!

Read Aloud

We finished JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH and have moved on to HORRIBLE HARRY IN ROOM 2 B. The kids LOVED the Roald Dahl novel, so if you wanted to check out more of his stuff at the local library for some read alouds at home, I think your kids would enjoy it!