



Russell Elementary School First Grade News

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Literacy

We are working on Foundations Unit 3. This unit focuses on consonant digraphs – sh, ch, th, wh and ck. We will also learn about the buddy pair – qu. In our practice last week, many of the children had trouble hearing the difference between sh and ch. Please help with these sounds if you notice that they are challenging. The trick words for this week are: as, has, or, for, to, into. We will continue to read Eric Carle books this week. The children enjoyed the special effects in the insect-related books we read last week.

Math

The first graders have made up and solved many addition stories. They each worked on a mini-book of firefighting related addition problems. This week, we will work on the Thinking Cap problems, review addition strategies and wrap up the chapter.

In conjunction with our pumpkin theme for the week, we will be doing lots of pumpkin math, too. We will measure, count, sort and graph with our pumpkins.

Insects

Last week, the first graders each made a model of an imaginary insect. Even though they were make believe, the insects still needed to have the right number of body parts. (Ask your child to tell you about this.) The children were very creative!

Halloween Primary Colors

On Wednesday Oct. 31 students in grades K-4 will have a special Halloween themed afternoon. Please send your child's costume to school that day. We will allow time to change. You are welcome to come and watch the parade which will take place on the playground and start at 2:10.

Fire Station Field Trip

We had an informative and exciting trip to the fire station last week. The first graders generated a list of fire safety tips based on what they learned. One thing that they need to do is learn their home address and phone number in case they ever need to call 911.



Pumpkins

Pumpkins will be our focus for the week. On Monday, each child will pick a pumpkin. We will use these pumpkins for a different activity each day. We will also learn about the life cycle of pumpkins. Many of our read-alouds this week will feature pumpkins. At the end of the week, the children will make jack-o'-lantern faces on their pumpkins and bring them home. They are pie pumpkins, so they could become pie, too!

Upcoming Events

Sat. Oct. 27	PTO Halloween Howl 2-4 pm
Wed. Oct. 31	Halloween Parade K-4 Primary Colors
Th. Nov. 1	Noon Dismissal Conferences
Nov. 5 – 9	CSA "Cry Wolf" Performance Nov. 9 6:00 pm