



First Grade February News

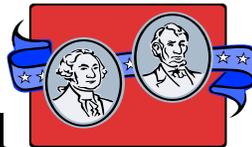
We have begun our second semester. Our daily schedule still includes Success Lab, Guided Reading, AR reading, ET lessons, Literature and Skills and Writers' Workshop. And that is just the morning. It is no wonder they are tired at the end of the day. (Me too)

AR The students are reading most books independently now. As a class they have read and tested on 2234 books. They have tested with 90% accuracy and their average book level has been 2.0. This is pretty impressive for a group that was not reading very much just a few short months ago.

Social Studies/ Science Since returning from winter break we have completed our unit on "What's New" and we are beginning our adventure in AFRICA. We will examine the landforms and cultures. We will spend extra time talking about the special features of the rainforest. When we have completed our unit on Africa we will study the human body.

Math In math we have completed our unit on geometry and fractions. We are now working on numbers to 100 along with the meaning of place value with tens and ones. Throughout the unit we will involve students in many problem-solving activities and reading in math. We have just gotten a good start in Accelerated Math. This program allows students to review many of the concepts we have covered and to progress at their own pace. It reviews skills that are not mastered and lets students who have mastered them move on to new areas.

The Leader in Me As you are probably aware, our school is working on a program to develop each child's potential as a leader. We have done a series of lessons to teach leadership skills but are also working on them daily as opportunities arise in and out of the classroom. One of the goals of the program is to develop a classroom mission statement. For several days the students and I talked about what our goals were for first grade and what we needed to do to reach them. We then rewrote and combined ideas until they agreed on these four ideas. **First Grade Mission Statement: We learn. We listen. We work together. We do our best.** I'm not sure anyone could write a much clearer or more effective statement. I think they did a wonderful job. I would also like to share my own mission statement with you. Mrs. Whitacre's Mission Statement: I will offer my best, while looking for and encouraging the best in others.



Special Days

Tuesday, February 1, 2011 The 100th day of school, We will be spending the day doing all kinds of activities involving the number 100. If your child would like to bring a collection of small items to show what 100 looks like in many different forms that would be great.

Monday, February 14, 2011 Valentine's Day. We will have a Valentine Party at 1:30. Children may bring Valentines for the class if they wish. I have included a class list of first names.

Friday, February 18, 2011 Grant School Carnival It's always a lot of fun. Please come!

Monday, February 21, 2011 President's Day-No school