

# October Newsletter

## Mrs. Whitacre's First Grade

October has arrived. The first full month of school is over. We have settled into a good routine.

**Reading** In reading we have completed our first unit. I am seeing steady growth in the students' ability and confidence. In AR the students have read 488 books. The average reading level has been 1.8 and they have tested with 91% accuracy. This is absolutely outstanding. Although we read everyday in class for at least 30 minutes, this excellent performance would not be possible without all the reading they have done at home. Please keep watching for the AR books to come with a note. When you return the book it is very helpful if the note comes back, too. It makes signing up for the test much easier and when I have the note I can always check to make sure that child picked out a new book. When students are beginning readers it is beneficial to read the books more than once. It is not necessary to read every book six times. Also, the return date is only a suggestion. If you wish to return a book early or keep it an extra day that is fine.

If your child returns a book and comes home without a new one for more than two days, please let me know with a note in the agenda. Unless I am gone, books are checked in and out everyday.

**Math** We have been working on **Investigations, Building Number Sense**. This includes many different activities for patterning, combining (adding) and separating (subtracting). The focus of this unit is to develop deeper math understanding rather than just memorization. We have also begun our weekly Muskie Math program. This is a quick daily practice of basic addition and subtraction facts. The completed or nearly completed sheet should come home every Thursday or if a four day week on Friday. We will have finished and corrected the first three sections. Please look over the section labeled Thursday and make sure it is finished and correct. Then, please send the completed sheet back by Monday. After the New Year we will begin testing Muskie Math on Fridays.

**Science** *Pebbles, Sand and Silt*, it is amazing how much learning there is in dirt and rocks. The kids have become great scientists. They are learning to make careful observations using different senses, record findings, contrast and compare, and make predictions. Thanks to the rocks from home we have quite a rock display. This week we are working with soil.

### Special Days

**Monday-Friday** October 25-29 Red Ribbon Week

**Friday, October 29** Classroom Halloween Parties. Our party will be a little earlier than other classrooms. We have specials at 2:30, so our party will begin at 1:45. Students may wear a costume if they wish. Please send the costume in a bag and we will put them on just before the party. It should be something the student can put on with little or no help. Remember all costumes must be without violence or weapons. At the end of our party there will be an all school costume parade.

**Monday, November 1** Teacher Inservice

**Room Parent** Dana Yerington has volunteered to be our room parent. I am sure she would welcome help with any parties or other classroom responsibilities. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mrs. Yerington.

We plan to begin putting our newsletters on the Grant School website. If you would like to have a hard copy of the newsletter please return this form.

I would like to have a paper copy of the first grade newsletters.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_