November News from First Grade

Hello Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and safe Halloween. Our class party was a blast! Thank you to everyone who brought in donuts, cookies, paper-goods and drinks. They were a big hit! Thank you also to everyone who sent treats for our Trick‐or Treating. Our goodie bags were filled to the rim!!!

Now that November is here, we will be discussing Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Pilgrims and Native Americans. We will also begin talking about Advent and St. Nicholas Day… which will be here before we know it! Mrs. Serio gave us our song lyrics for the Christmas concert which is Sunday December 2nd. We will practice in class to get ready for the big day! I’ll send a copy of the words home this week. Please take some time to practice at home too.☺ Thanks!

Thank you also for supporting our Ronald McDonald House Charities service project. We have a tremendous number of tabs collected. Look for details coming soon for our next service project in December. We will work with 2nd and 3rd grades this year on our annual PADS project.

Believe it or not, we hit the 50th day of school last week! We are counting our way to the 100th day in math. We are also working on Chapter 3 which works with new/different addition strategies to help us add facts to 20. We are working with strategies like counting on, using a number line and doubles plus one, doubles minus one. These strategies give first graders many ways to tackle addition problems. Math Fact Fluency testing will start after the holidays in January. I’ll send details regarding our new program for fluency testing before we leave for Christmas break.

Our Superkids reading and Language Arts program is moving right along. We will be starting Unit 6 in Adventures of the Superkids this week. We will continue to work on letter blends and word endings. We also continue to work on the many facets of comprehension in our fiction reading. Good Readers always “think” about what they are reading. We think about literary elements like understanding characters, setting, problems and solutions when we read. We have been enjoying nonfiction selections too. In every Superkids unit there is an opportunity to read nonfiction selections.

During our creative writing time, we have been working on the 5-step writing process. We will complete our first Diocesan Narrative writing project later this month. We continue to use the 6 Traits of Writing program in all we do.

We will continue working on our first science unit this month. We are discussing sound and vibrations and how sound is a form of energy. We are also tracking how the amount of daylight hours changes throughout the year. Our next monthly STREAM project will be next week on Grandparent’s Day.

In Religion, we just finished discussing Holy People in honor of All Saints Day. We have studied the lives of many different saints and how we can imitate their kindness, generosity, and holiness. Advent begins Sunday December 2nd.

We will be discussing Advent and completing many fun activities for the season!

This will lead us into Christmas and even more special activities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. Please keep an eye on Seesaw for many fun posts about our first-grade happenings and progress. We are starting to use one new app on our tablets this week. The app is called Teach Your Monster to Read. It’s a very fun phonics and reading app. I’ll send more information home regarding this program soon. As always, please feel free to email with any questions or concerns. Have a great week!

Mrs. Debbi Ryan