



Bear News

Mrs. Burkett's Weekly Newsletter

2011-12

September 9, 2011

The Math Minute:

- We have new learning standards for math this year. They are called Core Standards and are researched-based and were developed so students just don't know math, but that they understand math. Students must be able to tell how they got an answer, instead of just giving the correct answer. Almost all the states in the United States have adopted these standards to drive their instruction. We also have a new math series to help us teach these new standards.
- This week we have been taking the beginning of the year diagnostic tests that go along with our new math series. We will be using the data from the tests to help guide our instruction as well as intervention. Some of these tests will be given in the spring so we can see the growth students make in their first grade year. We will begin the first unit in math on Monday.
- The first set of flash cards will go home on Monday, September 12th. Students will need to cut them out and begin practicing the addition and subtraction facts for plus one and minus one. On Friday, September 16th the students will take their first practice test on the facts. Students have only 4 minutes to complete the test. Another practice test will take place on Friday, September 23rd. The "real" fact test will take place on Friday, September 30th. Then for the month of October we will be working on the +2/-2 facts.

The Social Studies Sampler:

- A great website we visited last week was www.wedolisten.com. We met Howard B. Wigglebottom, who taught us about listening, bullies, and the importance of being our selves. This website has books, posters, and games to go with the above themes. Check it out. ☺

- The first state standard we are covering is that time can be divided by days, months, and seasons. The students must be able to recite the days of the week and the months of the year in order. A note will go home prior to the test. We are also learning about calendars.

Mrs. Burkett's Homeroom Happenings:

- Open House will take place on Wednesday, September 14th. Parents need to meet in the gym at 5:45. At this time, Mrs. Hurd will introduce staff members and discuss some important information with you. You will then come to our classroom (room 2) and will be with me until 6:30. During my presentation, I will explain the "ins" and "outs" of first grade. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for conferences that take place in November.
- Picture Day is coming...Tuesday, September 20th. EVERYONE gets their picture taken, even if you are not purchasing a picture package.

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