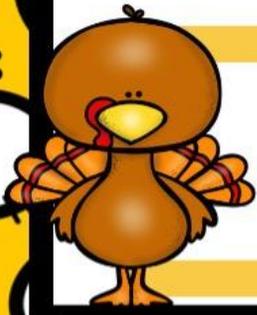


First Grade



NOVEMBER



Reading

In Mrs. Miller's reading, please continue to read over the day's word lists and story with your child. Mrs. Osorio's reading class should continue to read over the day's story, information passage and word lists. Students in Mrs. Osorio's reading continue to have an oral reading checkout every 5 lessons. The best way to prepare your child for a checkout is to count out 100 words from the beginning or end of a recently read story, and have your child read aloud that passage to you. Do this once or twice a week, more if your child is having difficulty passing checkouts.



Math

Some of the concepts Mrs. Osorio's class will be focusing on are drawing pictures and writing number sentences for addition and subtraction story problems, making and reading a bar graph, finding the value of a set of dimes, counting by 10's and 2's, and telling time to the hour. Mrs. Miller's class will be making a bar graph, counting by five and using tally marks, trading pennies for dimes, measuring to the nearest inch using a ruler, and ordering two-digit numbers. Each day, both classes do a fact practice sheet in class. They also have a fact homework sheet to complete. Please remember to correct and sign your child's fact homework sheet.

Spanish

In November, your child will learn to describe their pastimes with phrases such as "I like, I don't like", etc. Students will also review food vocabulary from last year, and will practice terms for ordering in a restaurant.

Spelling/Grammar

In **spelling**, the papers that come home will now contain sentences. Please be sure your child can spell the word "what." It shows up in the first sentence they write, quite a bit on their daily work, and on a few tests. We will have a spelling test on November 20th.

In **grammar**, we will continue to work on classifying and labeling sentences - some with more than one adjective and/or adverb! We are also writing sentences with the correct capitalization and punctuation and creating sentences from the parts of speech we have learned. Singular, plural, proper, and common nouns will be introduced in November.

Field Trip to Planetarium

November 7

Thanksgiving Break

November 26-28



Core

In **history**, we will be exploring three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The focus for our study is explained on the back of this newsletter.

In **science**, we will explore light and sound. Students will investigate light sources and shadows in addition to the differences between transparent, translucent, and opaque materials. We will look at the relationship between sound, sound waves, and vibration. We'll also learn about the physicist Gordon Gould.

In **literature**, the students will enjoy poems such as "Thanksgiving Day" by Lydia Maria Child and "A Good Play" by Robert Louis Stevenson. We will also be reading versions of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Tom Thumb" from different countries. We will discuss the similarities and differences among the stories. The saying for November is *There's no place like home.*



Dear Parent or Guardian,

During the past several weeks, your child has been listening to read-alouds about the ancient civilizations and people of Mesopotamia and Egypt. They have learned that the ancient Mesopotamians and Egyptians worshipped many different gods. We have talked about how these beliefs influenced the daily lives of the ancient Mesopotamians and Egyptians and helped to shape their civilizations.

In November, we will begin the remaining lessons in this unit of study. The read-alouds will extend what the students have already learned about the ancient Mesopotamians' and Egyptians' belief in many gods, by explaining the historical changes that began to take place and how these ancient people developed new beliefs and practices that focused on just one single God, rather than many gods. These final read-alouds provide a historical introduction to the development of three world religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—which are all characterized by a belief in only one God.

The Core Knowledge Program introduces students at various grade levels to the major world religions as part of their study of world history. The intent is to provide the vocabulary and context for understanding the many ways that the world religions have influenced ideas and events in history. It is important to understand that the religions your child will hear about in first grade—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—are not being singled out or presented in any way that suggests the merits or correctness of specific religious beliefs.

The read-alouds in first grade focus on teaching students very basic similarities and differences among the religions, fostering an understanding and respect for those similarities and differences. The historical events and ideas leading to the development of each religion are presented in a balanced and respectful manner. If the students have questions about the truth or “rightness” of any beliefs or religions, we will encourage them to discuss their questions with you at home, by saying, “People of different faiths believe different things to be true. The best people to answer your questions are your family and the adults at home.”