



## Mrs. Shea's 1st Grade October Newsletter



Dear Families,

Welcome to another month in our 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom. I want to inform you of what is happening in our classroom as well as upcoming events this month.

The focus of this month's newsletter will give you an overview of the work we are doing in the area of writing and update you on the skills we are learning in math.

### Writing Workshop

Did you know that writing is the reading process slowed down? I promise you that I will put a great deal of emphasis on writing this year and you will notice that your child will grow by leaps and bounds as a writer. Your child will learn how to rehearse or plan, draft, and revise stories, and best of all, to write with confidence and skill.

In our classroom we set aside a time every day for writing. The children refer to this time as "the writing workshop". Like authors, they choose their own topics and write rough drafts, which they revise and edit before publication.

The writing workshop lasts about forty minutes a day. It always begins with the children coming together for a mini-lesson in which I give instruction in the skills they need. Then students write while I confer with individuals and small groups of children whose needs may be similar. Each writing workshop ends with me making a second teaching point and with writers having time to read their own and each other's work.

I have been teaching the children how to write stories about the little events of their lives. We call them, "Small Moments". I am hoping that instead of writing "all about my dog," a child will write the story of losing her shoe and finding it in the dog's bed, and that instead of writing all about a friend who is moving, a child will zoom in and chronicle the step-by-step story of saying good-bye and seeing the moving van pull away.

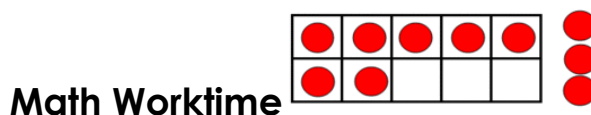
The children are each writing lots and lots of stories, and before long it will be time for them to choose one story to fix up and fancy up for publication. We will have an author celebration to mark the ending of this unit.

Your child's writing will change in dramatic ways across this year. At the start of the year, some children will pretend to write, just like they pretend to sing. Soon they will be labeling their pictures with labels that contain a letter or two. Once those labels become more complete, I will have children write sentences under their pictures. A child's first sentence will be hard because the child won't yet have learned to leave

white spaces between words, but like everything else, that will change. The sentences will become easier to read as the child leaves spaces between words, learns and uses a repertoire of familiar words, and becomes more skilled with using phonemic awareness and phonics. I will teach letters, sounds, and spelling of high-frequency words (words we see a lot in books) at other times of the day called, Word Study. This instruction will help children write stories that all of us can read.

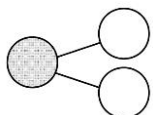
You can be certain that I will monitor and celebrate your child's progress so that your child moves step-by-step toward being able to write more conventionally. Your job is to admire whatever your child brings home, to make your child feel like a famous author, to enjoy the brave smart work your child does when he or she is just learning to spell and doesn't yet have it right but is willing to try anyhow...and to be interested in the content of what your child writes.

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We are in the process of finishing up Chapter 2: Number Bonds to 10. Our learning target for this chapter: I understand number bonds and can use them to show numbers to 10.

Be sure to ask your child to show you how to make a number bond for 10 in **many ways**.



6 and 4 make 10

Attached you will find the **School to Home Connections** for Chapter 3: Addition facts to 10. Our learning target for this chapter: I can use addition to show how many in all. This means...

- I can add by counting on
- I can add in any order using a number bond
- I can understand and solve addition stories

I will also share some ways to support and extend your child's' learning of both addition and subtraction facts to 10 during our parent teacher conferences next month.

Thanks again for all your help and support,  
Brenda Shea



## Important Dates

-  Guest Reader- Wednesday, October 18th
-  Read-a-Thon- Oct. 10th-20th
-  Harvest Festival- Saturday, 10/28 Harvest Festival 2-4 PM Winter Gear Give & Take Library Book Sale
-  October 24<sup>th</sup>- Kinderkonzert Grade 1 & Multi-age classes at Crooker Theater 9 to 10:30 am
-  Picture Retake Day- October 30th