



News From Room 14

September 2017

Dear Families,

September has been very busy! Our focus has been on getting to know each other and learning the routines and expectations of our classroom and our school. I am very proud of how well the kids have adapted to first grade!

Along with getting to know each other, I have been working hard to get to know each child academically. We are beginning to set personal goals, have our initial spelling words, and have (almost) completed two math chapters! As we settle in the academic expectations will rise, but these kiddos are ready for it!

Fall has arrived and with it comes cooler and varied weather. We play outside for a total of 45 minutes a day, so it is important that students have clothing that will keep them warm outside. Layers are great; the classroom temperature is still very warm.

Please keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack. You would be surprised how often they are needed for a wide array of reasons!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Open House! Thanks so much for taking the time to visit and learn more about our classroom.

Your partner in learning,
Mrs. Sciacca



Our field trip to the Community Garden was a big success! We were so proud of ourselves for being safe, kind and responsible the whole time! Thank you to our parent volunteers for helping out!

Please remember to go online and fill out the application to volunteer in our schools. Paper applications are available at the main office as well. All adults are required to get approval before they can help out at school or on field trips.

Mark Your Calendar!

No School – Oct. 6th and Oct. 9th

Kinderkonzert – Oct. 13th

Picture Retake Day – Oct. 30th

What's Happening In...

Reader's Workshop:

The kids have been hard at work building their reading stamina! Our class can read independently for 20 minutes straight, which is a huge accomplishment in such a short amount of time! Our focus this month has been on building good reading habits. The kids are working on acquiring strategies such as taking sneak peeks, rereading, and scooping up phrases (to name just a few). We have also been learning how to work with partners to increase our reading skills. Each student will be setting personal goals to work toward in order to become stronger readers. Our home reading program should begin next month!

Writer's Workshop:

Our writing focus over the past few weeks has been on small moment stories. These are real stories that happened to us and we find them everywhere! I have read stories about everything from what students' do at recess, to playing with siblings, to apple picking and beyond! We have learned that there is a process to writing for authors to follow, including going back and revising our writing. Students are using their personal literacy binders to keep track of their writing goals, consult charts to help with their spelling and to spell words they *almost* know in a snap. The kids have settled into a routine and have been using their writing time well!

Word Study:

The students' spelling skills were assessed for both high frequency words and spelling patterns. Each student now has an individualized spelling list to work on using the manipulatives and activities on our Word Study shelf. I will be adding personalized activities to practice needed spelling patterns over the next few weeks. We have also done some review work with identifying letters and the sounds they make along with identifying the number of syllables in word.

Math in Focus:

We whizzed through Chapter 1- Numbers to 10 – and moved on to Chapter 2 – Number Bonds. The kids are learning to break numbers into parts and put them back together again; this is a precursor to addition and subtraction and a great way for students to begin to see how they can manipulate numbers into parts and wholes. Many of the kids are writing numbers backwards, so I have been doing a lot of target teaching to break this habit. We have also learned the procedures and routines for using Math Tubs, which will be used across the year for extra practice as well as expanding our critical thinking skills.

Science and Social Studies:

Our Social Studies focus has been on community. We have been discovering what it takes to work well as a classroom community through brainstorms, class discussions and read alouds. In addition, we have been talking about our larger school community and how our actions and behavior contribute to Coffin School as a whole. We created a class promise which we will recite each day to remind us of the community we want to have and what we need to do to create it. Community will be studied across the year.

We have begun to talk about the seasons of the year in Science with a focus on autumn. The kids learned that the seasons follow a cycle and are they working on knowing the order of the seasons. Following a reading of "The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree", the kids showed their understanding of the life cycle of an apple tree by creating replicas of what an apple tree looks like during each season. We made applesauce as part of apple tree study, which was a lot of fun! Our field trip to the Tom Settlemire Community Garden gave us a bigger understanding of the life cycle of plants. We will continue to study plants and the seasons across the year as well.