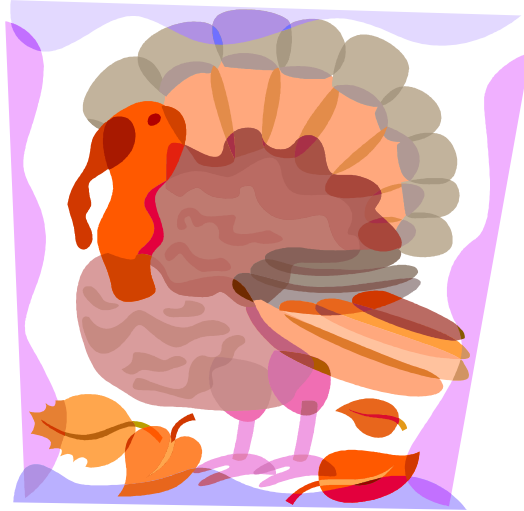


Mrs. Jarrett's Journal



November 2009

November is a busy month with Conference Day, American Education Week and the Thanksgiving holiday. I am looking forward to meeting with parents on Conference Day. It will be a nice opportunity to sit down and discuss your child's progress. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time with questions, comments, or concerns. I am here to help your child succeed!

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of November 16th. Monday is Grandparents Day and Wednesday is our scheduled day for third grade visitation. I will be sending home a schedule in the Thursday folder so you can plan your visit.

Special thanks to the families of Blake Bachman, Delaney Cox, Jake Gondeck, Becca Lang and Sophia Tsamouras. I was able to select some great new books for our classroom library with the gift certificates they purchased at the Scholastic Book Fair.

We had a great turn-out for our Fall Harvest party on October 30th. The students really enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank Mrs. Semple who organized the crafts and treats. I would also like to thank the parents who came to help out and have fun.

We have one more week (a short one!) for bringing in canned goods for the Harvest for the Hungry food drive. Thank you so much to everyone who has already sent in food.

Math:

We will test unit 3 (Linear Measures and Area) on Wednesday, November 4th. We will begin our next unit on multiplication and division on Monday. Please continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts with your child. Knowing these facts will be critical as we move into multiplication and division. Many students are still counting on their fingers and struggling to add and subtract basic facts to 20.

Also, I wanted to remind parents that unit study guides are given out at the beginning of each math unit. They are in your child's green math folder which should be coming home **every**

night. The study guide explains everything your child will be tested on in the unit and provides examples and reference pages for practice. Your child should also be bringing home the **Student Reference Book (SRB)** every night, which contains valuable information on how to solve problems using the strategies that are taught in class.

Reading:

We are currently in theme 2 in the Harcourt anthology. The theme is called *Together We Can*. All of the stories relate to the theme of teamwork and working together. We will continue to develop our before, during and after reading strategies as we read various fiction and nonfiction selections.

Writing:

We will finish our first *Independent Choice* unit this week. We did a genre study of circle stories. Circle stories begin and end in the same place and involve a journey or adventure for the main character(s). Some well known examples of circle stories would be the books in the If You Give a Mouse a Cookie series. We read a variety of circle stories and used them as models for our own writing. The students have been very excited about their stories and cannot wait to finish publishing. We will begin our next unit on *Poetry* on Monday, November 9th.

Science:

We began our *Mystery Powders* unit on October 22nd. This unit introduces the steps of the scientific method and requires the students to use those steps as they conduct experiments to determine the identity of the mystery powders. The students had a quiz last Thursday. We will finish the unit before Thanksgiving. Our assessment is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th. A study guide will be sent home before the assessment.

Important Dates:

Nov. 4th - 1:00 dismissal; Scholastic Book orders due

Nov. 5th - Conference Day

Nov. 6th - School closed for Professional Development

Nov. 9th - Begin our Poetry unit in writing

Nov. 16th- 20th - American Education Week

Nov. 25th - 1:30 dismissal; Science test

Nov. 26th - 27th - School closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 2nd - Field Trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry