

Greetings, Room 13 Families!

Please pardon my tardiness! I hope you are all doing well. Here's a quick update for the week of 10/14-10/18.

Collaboration Day—During last week's collaboration meeting, the First Grade Team shared ideas and activities for incorporating math centers. These flexible groupings promote differentiation during instruction. We also shared student progress using the math curriculum and prepared to give the first quarter math benchmark assessment. For language arts, we investigated an interactive reading website, <http://www.raz-kids.com/>. Second grade teacher Mrs. Hill later gave us an overview of the site and tips from her experience with the program. This program will soon be available for students to access at home and school. I will let you know when your child can log on.

Conferences—So many of you already confirmed your appointment time and returned your completed surveys today. That will help me better prepare for our time together. If you need a little extra think time, please return yours on Monday. Don't forget the 11:35am dismissal!

Volunteers—Every volunteer must have a current TB test on file in the office to be able to help in the classroom or attend a field trip. I emailed several volunteers personally. While several of you were able to find and bring in a recent copy of your results from home, I highly encourage others to also dig out your copy or get a new test done. Your help so far, whether assisting with special activities, reading with students, or leading a math center, has been invaluable. The students and I would hate to miss out on a single opportunity for your presence in our room.

Teddy Bear Project—The Teddy Bear Picnic is this Friday! Two students have already returned their fabulously decorated bears. I can't wait to see the rest! Remember that the teddy bears are due on Thursday. On Friday, volunteers will lead us through some teddy bear centers from 10:15-11:15. Then, please join us for a teddy bear picnic on the lawn just outside our classroom from 11:15-11:45. This is also a collaboration day, so students will be dismissed at 12:45.

Thanksgiving Celebration Change—The First Grade Team took advantage of a great opportunity to attend a writing conference, but unfortunately, the date conflicted with our Thanksgiving Celebration. We will now bump up the celebration by one day and celebrate on Wednesday, November 20 (instead of Thursday, November 21). Please note the change in your calendars.

Language arts: Students read several non-fiction books about bats. Then we read about a fictional bat in *Stellaluna*. Students completed a story map, identifying characters, setting, problem, solution, and other details. We also compared and contrasted bats to birds. As usual, we played with sounds in a variety of phoneme blending and segmenting activities.

Math: Continuing our study of addition strategies, we practiced adding in any order (the commutative property) and recognizing "doubles plus one" or "near doubles." A double has identical addends, for example, $3+3=6$. A near double increases one of the

addends by 1, for example, $3+4=7$. The sum also increases by one and is now an odd number. We also took a few days to review and complete the first quarter benchmark exam.

Science/Social Studies: We went batty this week. We learned about different types of bats, the different body parts that help them survive, and the amazing things they can do. We also gave much attention on how to react during an earthquake in preparation for the Great California ShakeOut on Thursday. The students were very responsible during the actual drill. Thumbs up!

Specials: We enjoyed story time with Mrs. Pahk in the library. Mrs. Choi helped us finish our bear paint/collage project that taught us about layering. Mr. Wulff taught us a fun monster song. We missed out on computer lab this week because of the earthquake drill. We look forward to seeing Mrs. Bentz next Thursday.

Important dates:

- Monday-Thursday, Oct. 21-24: Parent Conferences (school day 8:10-11:35 for everyone)
- Monday-Friday, Oct. 21-25: Red Ribbon Week
- Monday, Oct. 21: Palm Crest Golf Open @ LC Country Club
- Wednesday, Oct. 23: Picture Day Make-ups
- Thursday, Oct. 24: Dads Committee Meeting; 7:00 pm (MPR)
- Friday, Oct. 25: Teddy Bear Picnic, Collaboration Day (8:10-12:45 for everyone), Spirit Rally (9:35), Panther Wear Sales end
- Saturday, Oct. 26: Halloween Haunt; 10:00 – 4:00 (La Canada Elementary)
- Tuesday, Oct. 29: PCR Robotics Club Meeting; 3:00 – 3:50 pm (MPR), Site Council Meeting; 3:15 pm (Library)
- Friday, November 1: Reflections Deadline, Founders' Day Nomination Deadline

As always, contact me with any questions. Enjoy your weekend!

-Meredith Beyer

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