

1st Grade Newsletter #6

November 22, 2019

Dear parents,

Thanksgiving is around the corner! Yaay! 1st Graders are looking forward to showing you all the hard work they have done to prepare for this show! I would like to thank you for your cooperation; our costumes are almost ready. Special thanks to Janka for all the “cut and paste” work. We have been very busy lately practicing for our performance and keeping up with our 1st Grade academic responsibilities but watching the kids being excited and ready to learn every day is the reward.

Language Arts

In writing, we published our ‘What does the Tooth Fairy do with my teeth?’ creative writing project, where the kids got to use their (vast) imagination. The children became authors and illustrators, while also practicing their comprehension by providing an alternative end to the book ‘Turkey Trouble’. In reading, we worked on story elements and story sequence by reading and rewriting the story “You can’t move a hippo”. We are still working on retelling a story, with a special emphasis on story elements. Thus, I would like to recommend always discussing the story elements (title, author, illustrator, characters, setting, plot, problem, solution) with your child as soon as you finish reading a story book! In grammar, we’ve been discussing common nouns (person, place or thing). Additionally, we learned to tell the difference between a Common and a Proper Noun (a specific noun which starts with a capital letter). We made our “It’s a noun” poster and it is a pleasure to see the kids digging into some serious grammar.

Math

During the past 2 weeks, we’ve been working a lot on Fact Families. We learned how to use the ‘counting backwards’ method to subtract 1, 2 or 3 from a number within 10 with the help of the Number Line, and to identify numbers which differ by 1 or 2. Last but not least, we introduced the positional words under, on top of, right and left (you might want to challenge them at home for extra practice regarding right and left) and the ordinal number (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.). We also took our second Math Test. We’re ready now to work with Numbers to 20!

Science

During the past week we discussed plant parts, the life cycle of a plant, and the beginning concepts of photosynthesis and plant adaptations. We planted our own seeds with lots of love, care, soil and water and now

we are waiting for them to sprout. More planting projects coming up in the future with the ambition being to build our own terrarium. If you haven’t brought a planting container please do so by Monday 24/11.

Is it over yet...?

- CHARACTER EDUCATION: We talked about manners and how to not be a ‘rude cake’. We worked in groups and we came up with rules for the lunchroom. Next week we will start our **Manners Contest** and we will be ‘competing’ against 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders. Our goal is to earn as many stars as possible and be the **Manners Champions**.
- RAZKIDS: I was happy to see that most of you have been working on RAZKIDS at home. This reflects on your children’s’ reading skills, confidence and comprehension. Keep reading! Please try to read at least 2 books per week.
- *Winter holidays around the world*: 1st Grade invites you to come and share your special winter traditions with us. You can read a story, make a presentation, play a game or anything related to your traditions. Visit our classroom and sign up.

Coming up!

- November 28th: Thanksgiving Show (Akropolis theatre-doors open at 10:30)
- December 5th: Mikulas visits!
- December 18th: Portfolio check

Have a restful weekend ☺

Kind regards,

Mr. Harris

