

Room 8 News

September 26, 2008

Teddy Bear "Factory"

The Springer Teddy Bear Factory was a big success! Thank you to all the wonderful parents who came to help out on Monday! The student's had fun on Tuesday writing about and measuring their new bear friend. I hope your child's bear has been enjoying it's



Life Science and Apples

We have been learning about plants and what they need to grow. The students have participated in two investigations. The first investigation the students planted their own tiny "lawn". In our lawn, we planted both rye grass seeds and alfalfa seeds. Predictions were made as to how long the lawns would take to grow and what was needed to help them grow. After just a few days, we had to "mow" our lawns, but cutting them. We will observe how long it takes to grow again.

Our second investigation included observing wheat seeds and

planting them in a long straw. We will be observing their growth over the next two weeks, measuring their growth and recording our findings.

We will begin to explore apples as part of our Fall Seasonal activities. This will tie in with our Life Science study of plants, allowing us to observe the roles of flowers, fruits and seeds. Next week, we look forward to making Apple Crisp!



Math

The students have done lots of review with number writing, number sequence, and number sense as well as reading and writing number words. We have also been working on math terminology such as **digit, addition, addend and sum**. The students made some great story problems, using addition and subtraction, about bears.

We are now practicing addition facts to 10. Our math book, **Math Coach**, uses 'ten frames' to show different number amounts. The students are learning to recognize the amounts of the frames quickly. These frames are useful for counting on

from ten as well as for counting groups of tens and ones. Next week, we will be adding doubles and doubles plus one more.

Starting October 6, the First Grade classes will begin timed math tests, 2-3 times a week. These are math facts that the students will have 3 minutes to complete. They can move to more levels as they successfully complete one level. They are allowed only one error out of 30.

If your child can begin to practice math facts (flash cards) at home on a regular basis this will help for success during the timed math tests. As we look at student progress during the year, we do factor into account "test anxiety". Many students take a couple of weeks to reach a successful pace on the tests. The tests begin with sums of 1, 0, then graduate to 2, 3 etc. then introduce subtraction and, finally, mix addition and subtraction. Many students already understand subtraction from Kindergarten, but not all do, as it is a harder concept. We will be practicing this, also, during the week of Oct. 6.

We will also be moving into math groups. This will allow for the students to work in

homogenous groups at their level of comfort. At our independent centers, the students will be using manipulatives to practice making facts of specific numbers. These will help all students become successful at learning their math facts throughout the year.

Writing

The students continue to write often in their writing journals. We have also begun writing using *The Write Tools* framework. This is a program that uses color coding to help students organize their thoughts in their writing using a topic, details and explanations. The students use colored cubes and then tell their information to a friend before they begin to write. We have written two V.I.P. books and our teddy bear writing following this format. I am very pleased with how well the students are writing already!



DON'T FORGET THE SPRINGER WALKATHON--SATURDAY, Oct. 11th! Pledge Cards need to be signed and turned in soon!!

Have a great weekend with
your families!

Shauna Fulcher