



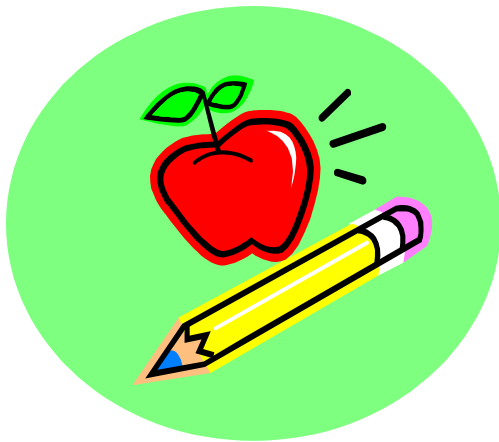
February 2010
Room 132, 130, 116
First Grade

www.jordansantam.com

First Grade Classroom Newsletter

Upcoming Dates!

100th day- February 8th
Early Release Day- 12:45- Feb 11th
Valentine's Day Party- February 12th
Presidents Day- Feb 15th- No school
Professional Day- Feb 16th- No school
Trimester Ends- Feb 26th
Beach Day- February 26th



Literacy News

Reading, Research, Report Writing
These next two weeks will have students researching and writing animal reports. This project provides terrific integration of our non-fiction reading, generating background knowledge, formulating questions to drive research, and using our learning to write the reports. By now every first-grader has chosen his/her topic. We've used library time to search for related books and have begun initial research during both our reading and writing blocks. It's been wonderful to see the students consulting a table of contents, checking through an index, reading a caption, exclaiming over a diagram as they gain new and exciting information. Now the task will be to organize our facts, write up our information, add appropriate text features, revise and edit the work. Last of all the students will rehearse and read their reports onto a special computer program that will be part of our culminating celebration for this unit. Stay tuned for more information about dates and times for our special presentations!!

Cougar Character

Congratulations to Cole Ruterbories, Rian McBride, and Lucy Gartland. They were January's winner of the "principal preferral award" for showing Carson Character. Keep up the good work Cougars!



Wild about Weather!

In science, we are learning about weather. We have been learning about temperature, windy weather and wet weather. We are learning about all the important tools that scientists use to measure the weather. We have some exciting experiments in our future! In the next couple of weeks we will be learning more about the water cycle and extreme weather. The first graders are getting really good at collecting data in their science journals and adding words to their glossaries.

Math Highlights

In math, your child has been working hard learning on developing number sense, fact power, and algebraic thinking with function machines. We continue to work on counting coins, now including quarters, and being able to show a coin value with fewer coins, as well as practicing time and automaticity with simple addition facts.

Unit 7 focuses on geometry and being able to identify and describe more complex patterns and 3-D shapes. We will be having a shape museum shortly in our class, so please be holding on to any cubes, cylinders, cones, pyramids, rectangular prisms and spheres your child may be able to bring in for the museum.

Spelling News

There will be some upcoming changes in the way that we will be doing spelling in first grade. We have two more spelling tests left, and then we will have completed the 100 sight words that first graders should know. The students will be given four tests of 25 words each, and then whatever words they are not successful with, they will practice those words a couple times each week during skills. We really want the first graders to be able to spell these words correctly in their everyday writing, not just on their spelling tests, so the students will be given more time to practice these words. Those students that are proficient with all of their words will be challenged with more difficult words.