



May 2010  
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# First Grade Classroom Newsletter

## Upcoming Dates!

- May 7th- No school for students-  
Assessment Day
- May 11th- Community Dinner 6:00 pm
- May 14th- Field Day
- May 18th- Everyday Math Game Night-  
Grades 1-3 at 6:30 (more information to  
come)
- Carson PTA Enrichment- 2:50-3:40-  
May 17th thru the May 21st
- May 21st- First Grade Picnic at  
Crestmoor Park – all parents welcome to  
attend 10 am -2 pm
- May 25th 10:30- Poetry Celebration:  
10:45-11:45 In your child's homeroom
- May 27th- Last day of school/ Carson  
Fun Run/ Spring fling 2:45-3:45
- May 26th- Crazy hair day

## Literacy Unit 6- Poetry

We are well into our Poetry Unit and the students are learning about such elements as personification, sensory images, white space, repetition, line breaks, and metaphor!

Students are reading poems every day and learning to note – and appreciate –how poets put powerful thoughts and emotions into a small piece of writing.

Then, of course, during writing our task is to use those ‘poets’ tools” and craft our own poetry, expressing our observations, ideas, and feelings in poetic language and form. Some early efforts are wonderfully elegant!

Some of the poets we are using as our mentors during this unit include Valerie Worth, Eloise Greenfield, Francisco Alarcon, with a bit of Robert Frost, and Maya Angelou for good measure.

Our Poetry Celebration during the last week of school will give children an opportunity to read their poetry to an audience, perform a group reading, and display some of their artistic interpretations of poems! Watch your Thursday Folders for more information about this happy occasion.

## Looking Ahead

We can hardly believe we are 3 short, busy weeks away from summer! It truly has been a wonderful year in first grade.

We will be sending home a packet of ideas to help keep your child practicing spelling, writing, and math over vacation.

Also, we have a lot of upcoming activities- poetry celebration, 1<sup>st</sup> grade picnic, and field day! Don't forget to mark your calendars for these special events.

### *Science and Social studies News*

In Science, we have been learning all about animals. We have been using what we know about Science to observe, investigate and record data about various animals. Our first animal was a goldfish, and the kids had a great time feeding the fish, cleaning the tank and making observations. We then got to observe busy harvester ants in action in our ant farms. The first graders are learning about the basic needs of an animal and how their structures (body parts) help them to get their basic needs. Our last animal that we will be observing is an isopod, or better known as a roley poley! We will spend time comparing and contrasting all three animals. The first graders have become phenomenal scientists throughout the year and are doing a wonderful job recording their data! ☺

## Math Highlights

In math, your first graders have really worked hard this year. We have completed the everyday math curriculum, and are now taking time to review and extend some more of the difficult concepts, like time, function machines and mental math using coins and two digit numbers. We will soon be taking the end of year math test that is an overview of all the skills taught this year, including fractions, comparing numbers, place value, answering graph questions, time, function machines, and naming 3D shapes. This test will be passed on to your child's second grade teacher to help begin planning and evaluate the strengths and needs for next year.

*\* Note: I recently sent home the left over Everyday Math Homelink pages with a challenge for the kids. If your child chooses, he or she can complete the Homelinks book and return it finished before May 27<sup>th</sup> for a special prize.*

Congratulations to our principal preferal award winners!

Teagan Crase, Maya Allen, and Sylvia Hanson!