

PRITCHETT ELEMENTARY
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LANGUAGE ARTS

Our soon to be second graders are continuing the process of reading to learn and learning to read. Choosing "just right" books continues to be stressed as our friends strengthen their independent reading skills. The children have been encouraged to utilize a variety of decoding strategies to attack unknown vocabulary.

During shared reading and guiding reading instruction, we have implemented phonics instruction that includes long vowel combinations and r-Controlled vowels. Comprehension strategies include visualizing story events, identifying problems and solutions, cause and effect, and making inferences. Finally, our grammar has been focused on exploring adjectives, verbs, color/number words and synonyms and antonyms.

The children are becoming writers who write for a purpose and with a voice. We have created personal narrative pieces, poetry, and descriptive writing. Beginning research skills have our friends becoming experts in different areas!!

MATH

The students continue to learn new skills and then revisit areas we have already experienced. One area that we have shared is the idea of symmetry. Not only is it a geometry term but also a force of nature. We can find examples of symmetry in so many areas of our lives.

Please take the time to practice basic addition facts with your kids. Use going grocery shopping and car trips as learning experiences. Counting money, figuring how many miles you have driven and counting by 2, 5 or 10 are great ways to keep numbers fresh and alive in your child's head.

This last trimester we are reviewing money and place value as well as visiting fractions. We will also be looking back briefly at time, temperature, and mental addition. Most skills in first grade are only the stepping stone for years to come. If your child has not mastered the skills please continue to work with them to provide a stronger foundation for second grade.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our focus will be on mapping skills and economics. The children will gain basic knowledge of cardinal directions, map keys, and a compass rose. They will be able to identify physical features on a map such as land and water. They will also have the opportunity to "create" several different types of maps as well as gain an understanding as to why maps are important. Our economic unit will discuss goods and services and needs and wants. We will also be visiting the School District office, Long Grove Chocolate Factory and McDonald's on May 15th. This will allow the children to see these concepts in "real life".

SCIENCE

We have begun our exciting unit on habitats. The unit begins by exploring the habitats of different plants. Next we look at animal habitats. This ties in well with our upcoming field trip to Brookfield Zoo on May 30th.

In this unit, students participate in many hands-on explorations and also take on the skills of a scientist when they record in their habitat science journal. The students will be helping to create a terrarium and an aquarium to show the things habitats need to survive. They will also be in charge of maintaining these habitats.

As the weather is getting warmer take the time to go outside and explore the many habitats in your own backyard.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Learning Showcase on May 15th. It is a great opportunity for you to celebrate your child's learning. You will be able to bring home their collection of class work and artwork from this year. Be sure to tour the building to see all of the beautiful student art that will be adorning the halls. Ice cream can also be purchased.

