



First Grade News



ISSUE 11

November 17, 2023

Reading

This week we began a new reading unit. First graders were Word Detectives! A top secret “confidential” envelope was delivered to our class! Inside the envelope was a special mission for the class to work on. One day, the envelope even contained special magnifying glasses to help students remember to look across the whole word from start to end!



These were our missions this week:

#1: Notice a problem and stop to solve it.

#2: Look **CLOSELY** from start to end.

Foundations

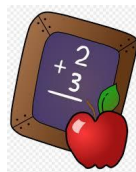
We began Unit 5, which focuses on the glued sounds an-fan-/an/ and am-ham-/am/. Glued sounds are word families in which one or more of the sounds is altered a bit. For example, the /n/ and /m/ sounds often alter preceding vowel sounds. We teach these word families as Units because the sounds are not easily segmented.

jam	ham	ram
pan	fan	can
ball	wall	mall

We learned and practiced the trick words from, and have, this week!

Math

This week we kicked off Unit 3. In Unit 3, students practice adding and subtracting within 20. Students apply the properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction. Students began this unit by looking at various sums of 10 and sorting ones that they know and ones that they need to continue to practice.



Social Studies

This week first graders learned about Diwali. This festival of lights is a holiday celebrated by Hindus and other faith communities around the world and it marks their new year. In India, Diwali is one of the most important holidays of the year. Diwali lasts for 5 days and this year it began on Sunday, November 12th. During this holiday, people may light small oil lamps called **diyas** and light firecrackers. Other celebrations may include creating rangoli art from colored sand, gathering with friends and family, and eating special foods.



Writing

In writing, first graders have started to engage in the revision process of their small moment stories. First graders checked that they told their story in itsy-bitsy steps and added moving, talking, feeling, and thinking details. They also checked their work for capitals, periods, finger spaces, and spelling. First graders are excited to publish their stories and show all of their hard work.



Thanksgiving

With the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, in order to be more inclusive of all cultures and embrace the most positive aspects of the holiday, we have focused our classroom discussions around the themes of gratitude, kindness, and family. Since we will not be sending home a newsletter next week, we would like to wish those families that do celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving.



★ **Save the Date** ★

November 22nd-25th - Thanksgiving recess

December 6th: Early Dismissal



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