

Mrs. Taylor's September News



Mrs. Taylor
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jtaylor@fairhavenps.org

Great Beginnings!

The children and I have had a great time getting to know each other these past few days. We are learning our new routines and rules, and the children are working very hard on their work assignments. I am excited to watch how much they will learn and grow this year! I LOVE having parents become part of our classroom family and I will be sending paperwork home about volunteers in the very near future. I will be looking for parents (or grandparents etc.) to help out with a special activity on September 26th in honor of Johnny Appleseed - see below for more details.

Scholastic Orders

The scholastic order I will send home will be due Friday, September 16, 2011. I will be sending home a letter that will tell you how you can order books from Scholastic online instead of sending in a check. You can try it out for this order or wait until the next. I had to set it up for the first time this weekend to give you access. I am ordering tons of books for my daughter and our classroom too - there are so many great selections. If you order online, there is a larger selection to choose from too and I can make older or younger children's book catalogs available too if you want to order something for your other children that is more age

Reading

The students will have a variety of opportunities to read each week. We have the main story of the week in our reading anthology, leveled books that relate to the theme of the unit, phonics readers (that kids take home and keep) to practice spelling words and patterns, my own leveled library and our classroom library that is filled with fantastic books. We also will be visiting our school library every Monday where the children can take out books. Each night, students should also be reading at home for practice. You can take turns reading, have your child read or read to them. This nightly practice will be both enjoyable and beneficial for your child. They will become much better readers the more they are exposed to reading in school and at home. Play games when driving or at restaurants or stores too - have them read words you pass or try to order for themselves.

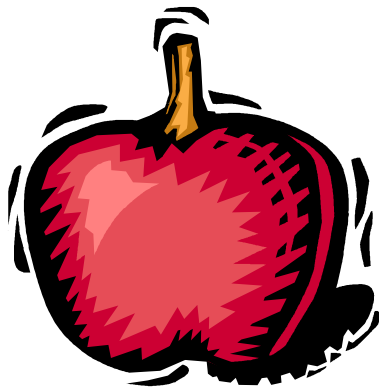
Each week I will test the students in spelling, word reading and comprehension. If I notice an area that could use improvement, I may send you a quick note to let you know and we can come up with a plan for improvement. I am looking forward to every student excelling in reading this year!





Math

We start the year reviewing concepts about numbers that students have learned in Kindergarten. We spiral concepts throughout the grades to check for their understanding and build a strong foundation for math skills. We will start this year with a review of numbers (using pictures, words and numerals). In the next few weeks we will be ordering numbers, exploring more and fewer and solving word problems using picture clues. You will see your students bringing home their daily math paper. We start our lessons with a math game each day and then I teach a new concept as a whole group or small group. I try to incorporate as many learning styles as possible during a lesson to make sure that all students are able to access the information (visuals for visual learners, manipulatives like cubes for kinesthetic learners, oral directions for auditory learners etc.). We complete the math sheet as a wrap-up and it gives me the opportunity to check for understanding. Check these pages out in their folders to see how your children are doing each day! ☺



Johnny Appleseed

Johnny Appleseed's birthday is celebrated on September 26th each year. I will be doing activities related to him. We will read some books about him and write stories using what we learned. We will measure ourselves using apples and will use our apples for some math lessons. On September 26th, we will also use our apples to make applesauce in our room!! It is always a really fun treat! I would love to have a couple of parents help on September 26th. The kids will get to cut up apples, but extra adults are definitely a necessity with this activity to help peel and cut as well. Each child should also bring in one apple with them to school by Friday, September 23rd for use in the activities. A variety of colors would be great, so don't be afraid to grab a yellow or green apple too! I will send a reminder note home as well. Thanks!

Mark Your Calendars: Important Dates to Remember

Sept. 16 - Book order due
Sept. 23 - Apple due for projects
Sept. 26 - Applesauce day