



# Corbitt Connection

November 16, 2009



## Field Trip Deadline

This Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day to turn in field trip permission slips and money for our Zoo field trip. If you wish for your child to attend our trip the permission slip and \$3 MUST be returned to school by this date!

## Writer's Workshop Update

We have begun Procedural (how to . . .) writing. I have taught the kids a song that I wrote that helps them to know the standards they are working toward and ways to make their writing "excellent."

## Math Test Clarification

The math curriculum for our district, *Math Investigations*, is research based and proven to be successful. The assessments that your child are given are provided to me by the district. Occasionally, there might be a disconnect between the curriculum and the assessment. On our first test, that your child is bringing home today with his/her homework, there were two such areas that needed to be altered. On question #2 when the test asked for three different ways to represent 13 fruit I only looked for one way. If your child knew more than one way fantastic but it was not counted against him/her if he/she did not. On question #6 your child was asked to solve four equations. Two of which were "regular" and two of which had a missing addend. Because the students had no such opportunities in the math games and activities to practice missing addend questions these two questions became extra credit.

## Reader's Workshop Update

We will be working toward one of the elements of Reading Standard 3 "read . . . instructions." As we read various examples of instructions the children will be able to build their schema of more things that they know how to make and do which in turn will improve their writing.

## Math Workshop Update

This week we will begin our new math unit *Quilt Squares and Block Towns*. We will continue to review and revisit "How Many of Each?" as well as combining and separating story problems so that your child's strategies to solve these problems remain fresh.

Your child is bringing home his/her *Building Number Sense* test. This is yours to keep. Please review with your child any areas where he/she struggled.

## "What Can I Do at Home?"

This week I am continuing to share ideas with you from, *The 10 Best Ways to Help Your 1st-Grader Succeed in School, A parent's to-do list*, by Ann E. La Forge. This week's tip is to "make sure your child is ready for school." The two parts that are most critical include making sure that your child is on time for school (the tardy bell rings at 8:30 a.m.) and that he/she has eaten breakfast.

## School Food Drive

Thank you so much to all of you that were able to donate non-perishable food during our food drive. In these tough economic times it is especially important that we do what we can to help those in need. Our class collected 48 food items! Thank you again to all who were able to donate.

## Important Dates to Remember

November 18	Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m.
November 20	Zoo permission slips & \$ due
Nov. 23-25	No School-Thanksgiving ☺

# Make sure your child is ready for school

All through elementary school, it's the parent's job to make sure a child:

- Gets to bed at a reasonable hour. That means around 7:30 to 8 p.m. Children who regularly go to bed later on school nights have a hard time keeping up in school, teachers say. They end up being tired and grouchy, they're more likely to have behavioral problems, and they aren't able to fulfill their academic potential. Even sleep specialists are now beginning to believe that certain behavioral and learning problems among children are the result of undetected sleep deprivation.
- Eats a filling and nutritious breakfast. Children who skip breakfast may not feel hungry when they first get to school, but according to teachers, they usually hit a slump around mid-morning and can't keep their minds on schoolwork, until sometime after lunch.
- Wears the proper clothes for both the day's activities and the weather. A kid who goes to school without mittens, a hat, or boots in the winter may have to sit inside for recess while her classmates spend their excess energy on the playground.
- Labels all belongings. That includes his backpack, lunch box, books- and any other piece of clothing or personal item that might somehow get separated from him during the school day.
- Has a lunch or lunch money. Most children aren't thinking about lunch when they run out to meet the bus or jump in the car in the morning. It's your job to either make it, take it, or remind your child to remember about lunch.
- Puts her homework in her backpack, to bring to school.
- Remembers to bring special supplies for special days. There's nothing more devastating to a young child than to be the only kid who forgot his teddy bear on the day the class was having a teddy bear picnic at school. Or to forget to wear the class colors for the all-school field day. These are the kinds of details most kids (and parents) have a hard time remembering. So it's your job to find a way to help you both stay on top of teacher requests. Hang up a big calendar with important dates circled in red, for instance, or put up post-it notes on the bathroom mirror the night before a special day at school.
- Knows exactly who will pick her up and what will happen when the school day ends. Children will worry all day long if they don't know what to expect when that final bell rings. So remind your child when she's leaving home: "I'll see you at the corner when the bus drops you off at three p.m." or "I'll be home from work at six p.m. Then we'll have supper and I'll check your homework." If you anticipate any change in the daily routine, or in the person greeting your child after school, make sure you give plenty of notice.
- Gets to school on time — every day. Chronic lateness is not only disruptive to the entire class, it can make a child feel out-of-step all day. Plus, it sends a message that school is not important enough to be on time for.