



Corbitt Connection

May 3, 2010



Arts Extravaganza & Book Fair

This Thursday, May 6, we will have our 3rd Annual Arts Extravaganza from 6-8 p.m. Mrs. Woodlief, our art teacher has been collecting artwork from the students and will display this art for everyone to enjoy. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Parrish will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair in our library. I would like to encourage you to come out and support the arts.

"What Can I Do at Home?"

Last Friday, during my lead literacy training the first and second grade teachers had an opportunity to meet. We discussed what we could work on during this last little bit of the year, as well as, ideas for you to work on at home. The main two things that they expressed were necessary in second grade were independence and speed. It is critical that your child is able to work independently on assignments. They also expressed a need for speed. Your child needs to be a fluent reader. This can be measured at approximately 60 words per minute or higher. If your child has to stop and decode (sound out) a lot of the words in his/her book this will dramatically decrease his/her words per minute. They also mentioned speed in the basic math facts. They need to be able to answer addition and subtraction basic facts (answers under 20) quickly. We have been taking math facts quizzes over the last couple of weeks in preparation for this. (Your child has been given two minutes to answer twenty questions when next year he/she will only be given one minute.)

This week's tip is just to continue the good practices that you already have in place. Make sure your child is reading a minimum of five books at home a week. Try to find books on his/her level whenever possible and then check his/her words per minute. You can check this by having your child read for one minute, count the number of words he/she read and then subtract any errors that were made. Also-don't forget to practice the math facts. (Even though there is not a quiz this week.)

Writer's Workshop Update

On Thursday the children helped me create our Response to Literature writing rubric (which you can find on our class website). With the time that is left in this genre they will be working toward completing an "excellent" response.

Reader's Workshop Update

This week we will be reading some of Kevin Henkes's other books. He is most famous for the mouse books, but has actually written several other books as well. During our reading centers time the students will be working in the new centers that were introduced last week. They include reader's theater, reading puzzles, dictionary detectives, and reading games (at the pocket charts).

Math Investigation Update

This week we will continue to work on our measurement unit, *Bigger Taller, Heavier, Smaller*. We have worked with weight and will soon be moving on to length. We will also continue to review story problems and number sense concepts throughout the rest of the school year.

Skills Block

This week our spelling pattern will be working with the "bossy r" (ar). We will be using thesauruses as we continue to explore synonyms.

Important Dates to Remember

May 3-8	Book Fair (in the library)
May 6	Arts Extravaganza .
May 7	Progress Reports Go Home ☺