

Nolan News

NORTH
HAMPTON
SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, September 18
School Picture Day

Friday, September 21
Early Release - students
dismissed at 12:15pm

Ask your child about our Sight Word Songs!

And

Oh I can spell *and*,

A-N-D, *and*!

And is the word that I write with my hand!

A-N-D, A-N-D, nicky nicky noo!

That's what I learned in my school, Mama!

Literacy Workshop

Reading Workshop

This week, we have been talking about reading interests and environments. We read the book The Best Book to Read and discussed what the best books are for us, by brainstorming our interests, favorite authors, and personally beloved characters. We came up with quite an extensive list!

We also read The Best Time to Read and The Best Place to Read. Students began to practice sitting in good reading spots in preparation for "private reading," which will begin next week. When we are reading privately, we need to have our own space where we can read free from distractions. Students also talked about how to properly handle books, after listening to What Happened to Marion's Book?, a story in which a mouse ruins a library book due to her carelessness. Our discussions this week have been a part of creating the foundation for our future reading workshop activities.

Writing Workshop

A major focus in writing has been using spaces between words. Earlier this week, each student created a "space person," from a wooden tongue depressor. We have started using our "space people" to help us remember to include spaces between words. Together, we wrote some sentences, modeling how to use our new tools. Students also used their individual space people in a dictation task, where they wrote a sentence that was read aloud (The cat and the dog ran.).

We hope you are enjoying reading the Letters that your child is writing each Friday. We are happy that you are taking the time to write back to them, as this illustrates the value of communicating in writing. Please be sure to share your response with your child before sending the binder back on Monday. Thank you for your involvement in your child's learning.

Word Wall/Sight Words

Each week, we will be working on learning a high-frequency sight word. So far, we have highlighted the, of, and and. Our approach to these words is through various multi-sensory activities. We listen to a sight word song (see box to the left for example), and do "rainbow writing," which is writing the word several times using different colored crayons. We also do at least one other hands-on activity, reinforcing the spelling of this high-frequency word.

(Over)

Literacy Workshop (cont'd)

Handwriting

Water Bottles

Please remember to bring a filled water bottle to school each day. It is important for students to stay hydrated, especially during the hot, humid days of late summer.



Take Home Folders

Remember that students should bring their Take Home Folders to school each day. Please put any notes or lunch money in the front pocket. Thanks!



If students were at NHS last year, they were introduced to upper and lowercase letter formation in kindergarten. In first grade, we review the "strokes" and continue to practice writing our lowercase letters and numbers.

So far, we have been working on our "circle strokes," which include the lowercase letters o, a, d, g, q and c. Students have practiced writing these letters using various kinesthetic methods, such as writing in the air, on the carpet, on a white board, on a friend's back, and on felt squares, as precursors to writing these letters using pencil and paper. We are working on creating muscle memory.

We are also doing other activities that will help develop our handwriting skills. Students have been working on strengthening their hand muscles to improve their pencil grips, for instance by using clothespins to grab rubber animals.

In conjunction with letter formation, we have been exploring letter sound relationships and phonology. Each day, we share objects that start with the sound produced by the letter of the day. Students sort pictures by initial sounds (for example, words that start with /d/ or words that start with long o). They have been working in their own ABC books. After practicing the motor plan for a letter, they then think of words that start with that letter. They draw a quick sketch and sound out/stretch out the word on that letter's page in their individual ABC book. Students have also been building abc puzzles and playing alphabet BINGO.

Math Workshop

Math Work Stations

So far this year, we have been working in math stations. Children have been rotating through different activities, which have included Mental Math, Calendar Math, Games, and Numeral Formation.

For Mental Math, we have been counting forwards and backwards by 1s, skip counting by 10s, sequencing numbers, naming the number before or after a given number, and practicing our doubles facts (2+2).

Calendar Math has included singing songs about the days of the week, and sequencing the days on cards. We use the date to explore number, place value, and operations. We have been exploring equations by using manipulatives to help us visualize a number and understand how we can break it into parts/decompose it. We write equations for the date, for example, on September 13th, we made addition equations that equal 13 (ex: $10 + 3 = 13$; $20 - 7 = 13$).

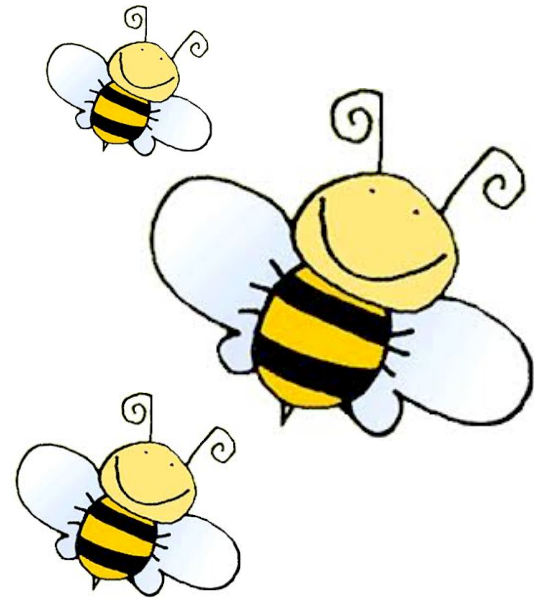
We have been working on proper numeral formation with handwriting activities, in connection to the book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

Students have also been exploring number sense by creating pictures with sticker dots, based on the book *Ten Black Dots*. They have been illustrating and writing about their ideas.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

This week, we have been talking about the 3B's of Learning: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Positive.

We have brainstormed how we can be kind to our friends at school, as well as kind words we can use. We talked about what it looks like when we are being safe, such as walking and keeping our hands to ourselves. We spent time discussing "body bubble space," and modeling what this looks like. We also talked about ways to be positive, as well as ways to help calm our bodies when we are nervous, sad, or angry. All of our discussions about behavior have centered around the idea that making good choices will help insure that everyone will be safe and everyone can learn, which are our primary goals while at school.



A Note About Your Child's Work

Your child will be bringing some of his/her work home starting this week. Much of our work in first grade involves hands-on activities, which are not captured on paper, such as math games, role-playing, reading, and discussions. Our writing pieces often stay at school, as we continue to work on them over the course of a few days, or up to several weeks. The work that will be going home represents a part of what we do here at school. Do not worry if work is not completed, or is not absolutely accurate. Students are becoming familiar with the expectations of first grade, and are beginning to develop work habits and skills. Your child is learning how to use his/her time wisely and efficiently, and is also developing his/her literacy and math skills. We appreciate you supporting your child by validating his/her efforts, giving specific positive feedback on what he/she can do, and highlighting the knowledge and skills that he/she demonstrates.

Wish List



Individual-sized snacks,
for the days students forget theirs

Suggestions: Smartfood, Goldfish
Crackers, Popchips, pretzels,
raisins/dried fruit, etc.

Thank you very much for the
classroom donations. We appreciate
your generosity!

Check out our School Website for
the latest information and news!

www.northhamptonschool.org

View the school calendar and our own classroom web page.
You can now read our newsletters online.