Week #2 at Glance…

We have successfully completed our first full week of school! The class is still practicing our “Work hard, Be nice” motto. Hopefully by next week, these rules will become an easy routine for the students.

There was a lot going on in the room all week. We were establishing new routines and procedures and beginning lots of new units.

One news worthy event was the implementation of the Senteo smart response system. This is a new technology that we are so fortunate to be able to use. We are so blessed at GCCS to have access to the latest technological advances in education!

The pictures above show the students using the actual “clickers.” We used them during a Math lesson. The students were able to immediately input their responses using the clickers. I was then able to view the results immediately, so I could see who needed help and in which areas. Ask your student to share how they used them, I’m sure you’ll be impressed!

We also officially launched our classroom store on Friday. The student run bank and store were a total success! Ask your child if they chose to save their week’s earnings, or spend them!

Student Planners

The third graders are getting better at being responsible for their planners. Each night your student should come home with their planner and their accordion file.

All homework and assignments will be recorded in the planner. All homework papers will be in the accordion files. Please do not remove any paper from the accordion file. All take home papers will come home in Friday Folders.

Dates to Remember:

- NO SCHOOL Monday Sept. 7
- Sept. 15 PTO meeting
- Sept. 23 “See you at the Pole”
Reading

Reading assessments are currently in progress. I will be forming Reading groups next week. Make sure you ask your child about the new books they are reading in class.

The 2009-2010 Book it program has begun. You should have received a September calendar on which to record your child’s daily reading. All students should be reading 320 minutes a month. I know we all have very busy schedules, so please try to plan accordingly.

As a class, we have also started reading the book, “Charlotte’s Web.” The students seem to be really enjoying it.

We are also beginning discussion on Main and supporting details. The students are working really hard trying to master this skill!

Charlotte’s Web

Writer’s Workshop

Our writer’s workshop is in full swing! We met twice this week and worked on procedures for the workshop.

On Thursday, the students began brainstorming in their writer’s notebooks. I’m looking forward to taking their ideas and helping them turn them into stories.

We also spent a little time this week journaling. The students wrote about what they were looking forward to most in the third grade!

Bible

We began the week looking at God’s seven days of creation. We tried to imagine what the world was like before He spoke the words and created the world.

We began in Genesis chapter 1, and ended the week discussing the creation of Adam and Eve. The students were really interested in the story of how God created woman using one of Adam’s ribs!

We met Tuesday for our first Chapel of the year. Mrs. Bigelow lead us as we began our study on having a “Beatitude Attitude.” We discussed how Jesus wants us to live a Blessed life full of JOY! We also learned about the difference between Joy that’s found down in your heart as opposed to happiness which is brought on by the world around us.
Math

We are steadily moving through our first unit in Math.

In your Friday folders you will find the weekly Math log that is beginning next week. Students will be required to practice their multiplication facts for a total of 50 minutes a week. This can be done over a couple days, or spread out over the entire week. Please return the logs by FRIDAY. I've had several students worried that they were not going to be able to complete this assignment.

This was my suggestion to them: practice your multiplication facts in the car, to and from school or to and from practice or lessons.

Have mom or dad say the facts, you call out the answer. It's really easy to squeeze in five minutes here and there when you're in the car!

They will have their first fact quiz on Wednesday. They will be testing on the “ones” family.

I'm also working on a new approach to our nightly Math homework...look for more info to come!

Science

We kicked off our Science unit by taking a trip outside. We used magnifying glasses to explore the earth. The students then completed lists of living and non-living organisms. You'd be amazed at what they found out in the grass!

Next week we'll be moving deeper into our Ecology unit.

Social Studies

As we cracked open our brand new Social Studies books I think the students were quite surprised! We have beautiful new books this year and we found them to be vibrant, colorful, and very easy to use.

We kicked off our studies by discussing what it meant to be a community. I was really impressed with the students’ answers! They were right on track!

As we continue Unit 1 next week, we'll talk about our very own communities all around the world.
Jacob Brunney Star Student!!

Jacob Brunney was our first Star Student! He enjoyed many special activities throughout the week!

He brought a bag full of things to share on Monday. Tuesday he shared his favorite book with us, and on Wednesday his father joined us for lunch. On Thursday his family sent in a letter about Jacob to share with the class!

WAY TO GO JACOB!!!