

 FIRST GRADE NEWS

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**\* MathFact Cafe**

**\* Party Time - again!**

January 22, 2016

Dear Families,

Happy New Year!Yikes! Twenty-two days into the New Year, and I am just getting out my New Year's edition of *First Grade News!*

**Art Literacy** Some of you may have already looked at the photos on our website showing last week's Art Literacy lesson on MC Escher's work, presented by Pat Ross and Cheryl Hefty. (If not, be sure to check it out at www.terisall.weebly.com)

Earlier this year, Mustafa's mom, Zaynab Araceli was able to lead our Art Literacy lessons. Unfortunately, she is no longer able to fit this volunteering in due to her work schedule,

Thank you so much, Zaynab, for all your time and effort teaching our first graders techniques of some of the masters!

Pat Ross has kindly agreed to present the lessons for the remainder of the year, but she will need a couple of assistants. The lessons will be from 12:30-1:30 on February 10th, April 12th, and May 10th. If you could help out for an hour one or more of these days, please let me know and I'll pass on your contact information to Pat Ross. Thank you!

**Leveled e-Books for Downloading-FREE!** So, you know all about the site Kids A-Z that our class subscribes to. I'm excited to share that you also have access to a site that allows you to download between 50 and 100 high interest books at your child's reading level onto an iPad or tablet for free. Your child has a username and password to access these books, which should be available to your child each year at least through elementary school! The levels are the IRLA levels from Kindergarten level through High School. I've attached a letter with instructions on how to access these books along with your child's username and password. If you have questions, I can help you get it set up. At your child's conference I'll have an iPad with the books downloaded available so you can see what a great this resource is!

**MathfactCafe** Our goal is for all 1st graders to be able to accurately add 50 addition facts with sums of 10 or less within 5 minutes, and preferably, within 2 1/2 minutes. We have the same goal for subtraction--50 differences within 5 minutes or less. In reviewing the results from our weekly timed tests, I'm happy to report that most 1st graders are making great progress on this goal, and some have moved on to adding numbers from 1-20. Graded time tests go home each Friday. If you find your child is not completing the 50 problems, or has incorrect answers, please help your child practice these facts each week, to reach the goal of being able to fluently add and subtract. This will help your child succeed as he/she moves on to 2nd grade-- and beyond!

The other day a parent asked if I had a good source for math fact (paper and pencil) practice. I gave her the resource we use at school to create our weekly addition and subtraction timed tests. The website is called *www.mathfactcafe*.com. I like it because you can specify how many problems you want on a page, what ranges of numbers you want the addends and sums to be for addition problems, or the minuends/subtrahends (the numbers you subtract in a subtraction problem.) If you'd like to create your own worksheets for practice or monitoring your child's growth, go to www.mathfactcafe.com and click on the *Custom Worksheets* tab, then select *Basic Facts.*

**Science/Social Studies/Writing**  In Science we have been reading and organizing facts about another animal found in the temperate forest, the fox! Students will use their research to work on non-fiction informational writing skills. In Social Studies, we have been singing, reading, and learning about Martin Luther King's life and contributions to our world.

**Party Time!** In my last newsletter, I talked about our Winter Party, and it is already time to mention our Valentines Day Party, which will be on Friday, February 12th, from 1:30 to 2:15. Jordan Clark and Roxie Ehrmann will again be our party coordinators (Thank you, ladies!), but they would love some help. If you would like to help, please let me know and I'll let our party planners know! I will send home a name list and details about valentines in my early February newsletter. Students may bring valentines if they bring one for every student in the class.

Happy weekend!

Mrs. Sall