

# Notes from Mrs. Bosch

Friday, November 22, 2019



GROVE AVENUE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

◆ **Continuing Conversations about Skunks:** Our Nature Lady, Edith Auchter, visited Grove. She shared amazing visual displays, books, and manipulatives to help students learn about skunks. Ask your child what he or she learned. My “learns” included: Skunks eat rodents, grubs, and insects which is helpful to people. Skunks don’t like the stink of mothballs, so spreading those under a deck may repel them. The spray of a skunk has a range of 10 feet.

## Dates to Remember:

- \* Monday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Grizzly Groups
- \* Tuesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – First Grade Traditions Feast
- \* Tuesday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards Available in IC
- \* Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – No School
- \* Tuesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – Winter Musical featuring 1<sup>st</sup> graders

## Notes:

◆ **Report Cards:** On Tuesday, November 26th, the first report card of the year will be available for viewing via Infinite Campus. I hope that you talk to your child about their report card and celebrate areas of success. Please note that the report card displays the terms, “Consistently”, “Sometimes” and “Needs to Improve”, to share information about the progress of students in a variety of areas.

**I find that often first graders are not “consistent” in their behaviors, especially in the first part of the school year. If your child earns an “S+” in a category, it means that I feel as though he or she is demonstrating that skill as expected for a typical first grader at Grove for this point in the year.** Please let me know if you have any questions.

◆ It’s hard to believe that Thanksgiving break is just around the corner! I wish your family lots of joy during the coming days. I am so grateful to be working with such a supportive group of parents and a classroom full of wonderful children! If you are looking for learning activities to work on with your child over break:

- Please ensure that your child reads each day.
- Read a chapter book together as a family. At home, we are reading *The One and Only Ivan* and *The Wizard of Oz* with my oldest.
- Practice reading/spelling sight words. (See next column.)
- Play games from the math game binder.
- Review addition and subtraction with numbers to 10. These concepts will serve as an important foundation as we move into upcoming math units, which focus on numbers to 20.

## Learning:

◆ **Writing:** Students are reviewing the way to write “how-to” stories, which are a list of directions that teach a reader how to do something. We have been studying Gail Gibbon’s books to learn that how-tos are numbered, use transition words (first, next, finally), end with an interesting thought, begin with a title that has the words “How to...”, and have labels and pictures that teach. We kicked this mini unit off with a demonstration. Each child wrote a how-to about making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I then acted out the steps of several of the kids’ pieces to help them realize what happens if steps are left out or if writers are not specific enough.

◆ **Word Study:** This week, students have been studying r-blends. R-blends like “tr” and “dr” are particularly tricky to pronounce and therefore are often spelled incorrectly. We practiced emphasizing the initial sound of the blend. Please have your child practice reading and spelling the following high-frequency words: I, see, can, the, like, have, to, you, little, he, she, play, what, where, go, and, with, for, no, jump, one, are, said, two, look, my, who, why, there, come, here, of, what, put, want, this, saw, was, there, then, out.

◆ **Math:** *Math in Focus* unit 7 helps students learn about numbers to 20. Students have been practicing counting on from 10 to 20 as well counting back. They need to be able to read and write numbers from 10-20 in numbers and words. Students are using manipulatives and place value charts to show and order numbers up to 20. The most important concept from this week is to understand that a “ten” can be thought of as a bundle of ten ones.

◆ **Reading:** A staff developer used our classroom as a lab site for teacher learning earlier in the week. Several teachers came into the classroom to learn about best practices in reading instruction. The students in our class did an amazing job during these sessions. I love when students have the chance to see that teachers are always learning new things right along with our students. Our learning focus this week in reading workshop has been on reading aloud like an expert. Readers marked important parts to share with their “students”. They practiced reading smoothly and with feeling.