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# First Grade News

## November 2009

### November Notes

- Have you signed up for Parent Portal? Log on to Luxford's website for information on how to get connected!
- Report cards will be sent home on November 23rd.
- There is no school on November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day.
- November 25th is an adjusted dismissal day. School hours are from 8:00—12:00.
- November 26th and 27th are Thanksgiving vacation days; school

resumes on November 30th.

### Language Arts Learning

We are continuing to work on phonics skills. We will be reviewing short o and short i word families (short o, as in hot; short i as in six) and will introduce the word endings "s" and "ing." We are also working on reading comprehension. When you read with your child, you can practice comprehension by asking specific questions about the story. Ask if the story is fiction

or non-fiction. Make sure your child can identify the main characters of the story and tell you where the story happened. Retelling details in the order that they happened is an important comprehension skill, as well. Have your child start at the beginning and explain what happened in the beginning, the middle and the end of the story.

We are also working on our writing skills. Attached you will find the first grade writing rubric. The skills listed are all things that we look for in your child's writing.

### Marvelous Math

In math, we will be creating and identifying patterns. We will also be introducing odd and even numbers and continuing to add and subtract on the number grid. Later in the month, we will be telling time to the half hour and adding a collection of dimes, nickels and pennies. Math is fun!

### Content

This month we will finish our study of past, present and future, famous Americans and holidays. We will also do a quick unit on Thanksgiving and what life was like during that time. In science, we will begin our study of seasonal changes and the seasons. It will be a very busy month for our first graders!

### Word Study

Last month, we began our weekly spelling tests. Each child has a list of words that comes home on Monday that he/she should practice throughout the week. The children spend some time

each day working with these words. We are sorting, writing and reading them. Your child's list is specific to his/her needs. As we practice the different skills (including short vowels, consonant

blends and digraphs), you should begin to see your child use the skills in both reading and writing. Encourage your child to understand the skill that is being taught as well as how to spell the word.