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November 2023

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## First Grade Paw Prints

Dominion Trail Elementary School  
<https://www.lcps.org/dominiontrail>

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## Together as One!

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**Reading Workshop** Our first graders continue to grow as readers, using all they know about letter sounds to decode more and more tricky words. In addition, we are noticing the characters and setting in books that we read. Please keep in mind that reading aloud to your child is a gift to them, and a precious moment for you. When a child has **heard** a word, it is much easier to **decode** a word. By reading to them, you are building their vocabulary, helping them learn to listen carefully, growing their attention span, and perhaps even relieving stress for you both!

**Phonics** During November we will continue working with our UFLI program. Please continue to practice each week using the sheets we are sending home. In addition, please review the weekly UFLI assessment with your child.

**Writing Workshop** This month during Writing Workshop, we will be doing fall writing. We will also begin writing "How-To" pieces. Students will think of something they can teach someone and plan their writing using small steps. They will sketch and write these steps.

**Math** We are enjoying our study of ordinal numbers and will soon begin our study of graphing. You can support this learning at home! Graphs are everywhere. Point them out when you see them!

**Social Studies** This month we will learn about the landforms we see here in Virginia. Virginia has a very diverse landscape! Then we will discuss some of the traditions and celebrations that are celebrated by our diverse population here in Virginia. We will learn about the characteristics of people, places, and events to support our understanding of Virginia's history.

**Science** We continue to enjoy learning about the changing seasons. Autumn provides daily science lessons. Perhaps your family can get bundled up and get outside! Is there a tree in your neighborhood you can 'adopt' as a family? You can observe the changes throughout the seasons! During November we will note the changes in plants as the season changes. Here is a great link with fun autumn activities. ["Get the Kids Outside"](#)

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**Does your child have a public library card? Use the link below to check it out!** <https://library.loudoun.gov>

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## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Student holiday  
(staff development)**

**Friday, Nov. 10- Veterans Day  
(assembly)**

**Monday, Nov. 13 – Student Holiday  
(Diwali)**

**Nov. 22 – Nov. 24 -Thanksgiving Break**

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## Helpful Hints

**Conversation starters:** Try one of these to get your first grader to share details about the day!

**\*How were you a buddy to others today?**

**\*When did you feel proud of yourself today?**

**\*How did you follow the Husky Code today?**

**Questions for your first-grade reader:**

**\*Who are the characters in the book you are reading?**

**\*Can you retell the story you just heard/read?**

## Fun Songs!

["What I am"](#)

["A Beautiful Day"](#)

["We are a Family"](#)

["Todos, Juntos, All Together"](#)

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**First Grade is Magic!**

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