

October 2023

First Grade Paw Prints

Dominion Trail Elementary School

<https://www.lcps.org/dominiontrail>

Happy Fall!

Our first graders are doing an amazing job with the routines in the classroom. They know the Husky Code, and they proudly recite it each morning. They are learning how to ask for help with a quiet hand, they are learning how to show kindness to their classmates, and they are currently learning how to be active listeners. This is an important part of our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) program. Students are learning to focus attention by looking at a speaker, thinking about the topic, and avoiding distractions. They know how to safely line up, ask for their choices in the lunch line, and clean up after themselves in the lunchroom! WOW! So much learning taking place is like "on-the-job training" for first graders, and all the while they are doing academic learning as well! We imagine you have tired little people every evening.

Language Arts

During our reader's workshop, we learned some strategies for building good reading habits. Students have learned to preview the title and pictures to activate their thinking and are learning to look at all parts of a word when reading. They are learning how to look for a problem and solution in a story and identify the characters and setting. In Phonics we are working on mastering the routines of our UFLI lessons. The students are learning to create word chains and to write dictated sentences with our phonics focus skill. Please look for a weekly half sheet of paper reviewing the specific lessons we have completed. Reviewing these is a wonderful way to support your child's learning. In writer's workshop, we recently began writing pattern books. One thing we have noticed is how our first graders have grown in their ability to be brave spellers. They are working on using all they know about letters and sounds to "tap out" and then write words. Hooray!

Math

Students are learning the structure of math workshop. We have recently begun our unit on place value. Here is a fun [place value video](#) we enjoy! We have also been working on skip counting by 5's, and 10's. You can support this learning at home! Practice skip counting together! Collect some pinecones and count them by 5's. Collect some colorful leaves, sort them into groups of five, and count them. We have also been using our math learning platform, Zearn. This is accessible on LCPSTGo. Feel free to check it out!

Social Science/Science

In our content units, we have enjoyed our study of maps. We have learned about cardinal directions, and we have learned that we see the sunrise in the east and the sunset in the west! You can support this learning at home. Help your first grader determine where the sun rises at your house. From there, determine the cardinal directions. In addition, give this [fun video](#) a try!



Important Dates:

October 3 – Fall Clothing Giveaway

October 9 – No School (Indigenous People Day)

October 18 – Unity Day – wear orange!

October 20 – PTA Monster Mash

October 27 – End of 1st grading period

October 30, 31 – Student Holiday (teacher workday)

More tidbits...

Assessments: During October we will continue giving individual assessments. Results will be discussed at our conference time in October/November.

Homework

This month your first grader will bring home a Homework Notebook. In it, you will find many resources. Please take some time and look through it together. We will be sending home optional monthly activities for your first grader to complete.

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

First Grade is Magic!