



Corbitt Connection

November 2, 2009



FRIDAY!!!

This Friday, November 6th is our 3rd annual fall carnival from 5-9 p.m. It is sure to be a fun time. There will be lots of food, games, music, and a silent auction. You don't want to miss it. I hope to see you there!!!

Writer's Workshop Update

This week the students will choose their best narrative, revise and edit them, and then polish (rewrite in his/her best handwriting) the narrative for their portfolios.

Field Trip

Today I am sending home our Zoo field trip permission slip and an envelope for easy returning. Our trip is Friday, December 11. The cost is \$3 for students and \$9 for adults. The money and permission slips are due no later than Friday, November 20th. If your child will need a lunch from the cafeteria please mark it on the permission slip. If you are interested in being a chaperone please let me know, we'd love to have you!

Reader's Workshop Update

This week we will be focusing on how drawing conclusions can help us to be a better reader. The students will draw their conclusions to the text they read based on their own experiences and therefore, we will also be focusing on the three types of connections: text-to-self, text-to-text, and text-to-world during reader's workshop.

Food Drive Update

As I mentioned last week our school is participating in a food drive of non-perishable items through November 12th. All of the food items will be given to the Salvation Army and benefit families in need here in Jacksonville. Our classroom turkey has nine feathers and I am looking forward to adding more feathers to our turkey with each item that is brought in.

Skills Block

Spelling begins this week. In your child's homework folder you will see a paper titled, *Activities to "Bee" a Good Speller*. This is a list of suggested activities to help your child learn his/her spelling words. This is not official homework and therefore does not need to be returned to school with the rest of the homework.

"What Can I Do at Home?"

This week I am continuing to share ideas with you from, *The 10 Best Ways to Help Your 1st-Grader Succeed in School, A parent's to-do list*, by Ann E. La Forge. This week's tip is to teach your child how to listen. When I read through this tip I was immediately reminded of the old Rice Crispie Cereal commercial when the mom asks her son to listen to his cereal and he has that cute laugh! I would like to encourage you to flip over and read through the suggested tips, even if your child is already a good listener. ☺

Math Workshop Update

This week the students will continue working with addition and subtraction in both games and story problems. We will be talking about the vocabulary in the story problems that help us know whether to add or take away.

Important Dates to Remember

Now-Nov. 12	Canned Food Drive
November 3	Report Cards Go Home
November 4	Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m.
November 5	Awards Ceremony @ 9 a.m.
November 6	3 rd Annual Fall Carnival

Teach your child how to listen

Teachers who've been around for 15 or more years say they've seen a definite decline in children's attention spans and listening skills since they first started teaching. Many of them attribute it not only to the fast and entertaining pace of television and computer games, but to the fact that many children today don't have a lot of time to just sit around, listening and talking to family members. Between parents' jobs and children's after-school activities, it's hard, sometimes, to get everyone in the same room for a family dinner once a week.

But being able to focus on what other people are saying is an important element in learning. So, whenever possible, try to build your child's listening skills. Here are some strategies that will help:

- Read aloud to your child on a regular basis — even after she has learned to read by herself. Ask questions as you read, to make sure your child is understanding what she hears.
- Limit television, computer, and video game time. While they're all entertaining, and can even be educational, they tend to promote tunnel vision. Make sure the time your child spends in front of a screen is balanced by time spent with other people, talking face to face.
- When you speak to your child, make eye contact and gently touch his shoulder or arm, to secure his attention.
- When giving directions, ask your child to repeat back to you what she heard you say — to make sure she really did hear, and does understand what she needs to do.
- Model good listening behaviors. When your child wants to talk to you, for example, stop what you're doing and look at him while he's speaking. When he's finished, say something that indicates you heard him, even if you only repeat back what he said.
- Play talking and listening games with your child like Charades, Red Light/Green Light, Duck, Duck, Goose, and Twenty Questions.
- Teach your child that even if an adult is saying something he finds boring, he still needs to listen, look at the person, and show respect.
- Spend time with your child doing quiet activities that encourage conversation, such as taking a walk together, taking a ride in the car, folding laundry, picking strawberries, etc.