

Primary School News...

By: Mrs. Lilian Mullane, Head of Primary School

News from the 4th grade classes: You may have noticed the “Under Construction” sign on the IPC Bulletin Board in the Front Hall. Now the Fourth Grade have finished building their houses for their imaginary Bruff Community. The students showed cooperation, resourcefulness, a willingness to share, and concern for resources as they decided where to locate their homes. As you can see from the completed map, the new community looks very inviting!!

The First Grade International section will be completing their first IPC unit on Our World. The students have enjoyed learning about different cultures around the world as well as realizing that other people’s needs and wants are not much different from their own. Also, they enjoyed creating paper dolls representing their own heritage.

During the month of November, Ms. Fran’s Pre-K 4 International students will be engaging in lessons, books and activities surrounding the theme of “Fall Harvest”. The students will examine the many customs and symbols of the arrival of the harvest season and the celebration of Thanksgiving. Pumpkin bread and popcorn treats will be made by the students (and eaten by the students!)

Ms. Lori, our Iroquois class assistant, will be sharing some of the traditions and musical instruments of the Iroquois People and how they are used to giving thanks for the “given harvest”. Ms. Lori will also be sharing and teaching an Iroquois friendship dance with the students.

The students in Mrs. Case’s Kindergarten class are ‘Map Happy’. The children are enjoying first-hand experience in the art of making maps. Their journey began with a simple map of their face, and they are now tracking their every step around the Pre-School via their working knowledge of cardinal directions. These junior cartographers will now be applying and expanding their geography skills to the exploration of the continents and oceans of our beautiful world!

This month we have a contribution from Susan Permenter and Lisa Wolff, second grade international section teachers. They offer practical advice for parent support that will reinforce the instruction a teacher does in class. It is great advice for parents of children in the elementary grades! Next month we will begin a conversation about dual language learners.

Parent Support for Improving a Child’s Skills

By Susan Permenter and Lisa Wolff

Reading:

To increase oral reading fluency, read aloud with your child daily. Model inflection and proper pauses at punctuation marks by reading the selection to your child, then have your child read the selection back to you.

To improve Reading Comprehension, have your child practice describing the story characters, the setting, the sequences of events, the main ideas and the corresponding details of the story, the plot, and summary of the story.

Spelling and Vocabulary:

Have your child review the spelling patterns for the sounds each of our spelling units is highlighting. Have him/her pick out and group the words with common spelling patterns.

Have your child identify the words that are spelled in ways that break the rules of English sound spellings. These are “memory words.” About 85% of the words in the English language are guided by sound (phonemic) spelling rules and patterns, the other 15% of the words will need to be memorized because they do not follow these patterns and rules.

To improve vocabulary comprehension, review the vocabulary sentences that are part of the exercises in both the spelling and reading workbooks. Have your child use these words in sentences in response to your inquiries.

Grammar/ Parts of Speech:

One of the most important skills in grammar is to be able to identify the different parts of speech. Have your child routinely identify the different kinds of words in sentences. Practice truly does make perfect with regard to proper grammar in any language.

In the International Section, first and second grade focus on nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, with adverbs added in second grade. Third, fourth and fifth grades focus on prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.

Mathematics:

To improve errors in calculations, work on addition and subtraction facts daily with flash cards and by writing down the facts.

To improve errors in comprehension related to word problems, have your child underline each fact in the problem, have him/her draw a box around the question, and then circle the key words in the question that help him/her decide what operation(s) to perform to solve the problem. Have your child represent the problem either with a number sentence, a table/chart, drawing a picture, or showing a pattern – whichever representation is appropriate for the problem.

Social Studies and Science:

To improve performances in Social Studies and Science, have your child read the information to you, then check for understanding by asking probing questions. Discuss the vocabulary words and help clarify their meaning.

Have your child use the chapter’s vocabulary words for the chapter in sentences in response to questions from you about the chapter contents. Review the end of chapter questions and exercises with your child.