**“AND IT’S A WRAP”**

**FIRST GRADE’S FINAL NEWSLETTER**

**June 9, 2017**

First Grade had an amazing last week of instruction! We enjoyed a final story in our readers, a biography, Alexander Graham Bell! We were excited to learn about this important inventor and how he invented the telephone! We are also enjoying a read aloud biography, “Who Is Jane Goodall?” We are enjoying learning how this lady studied chimpanzees by living with them! It is very amazing!

We engaged in lots of writing activities this week as well. First, our expository text narratives about our families, then persuasive paragraphs about a sport, next a letter to say good-bye to Mrs. Colombo (which she will treasure) and last a letter to ourselves! We were amazed at how far we have come with writing skills when we compared our letter to ourselves from the first day of school! We are sure you agreed when you saw them in our folders on Thursday! **Mrs. Colombo is so proud of all her amazing readers and writers! They have worked very hard all year long, completing 5 readers and working in their corresponding “Blue Books” daily on Spellling,Language Arts and Comprehension Skills that were taught through the vocabulary and text of the stories! She is proud of their abilities to challenge themselves to read chapter books with all sorts of different characters and learn how to report on them in a variety of different ways! Her readers and writers are ready for more reading and writing in Second Grade for sure!**

We enjoyed working in Math with shapes, learning about dividing shapes into equal parts- 2 equal parts (halves), 4 equal parts (quarters). We engaged in a last Sprint, challenging ourselves to complete both Sprint worksheets with the added 3 minutes! We reviewed time to the o’clock and half past the hour or thirty minutes past! We also enjoyed reviewing Math Stories and how to solve them with a Math Sentence (equation) and a statement. We wrote our own Math Stories, using settings such as the beach, a park or a picnic and had fun coming up to the chalkboard to read our stories and then show our classmates how we solved it with our Math sentences and statements!

**Mrs. Colombo is thrilled to report that as we talked about memories of our year this week- favorite moments, favorite subjects, etc. all, but 2 students, reported that MATH was their favorite subject! So, despite the definite rigors of Eureka Math, most of her students love Math! They are proud of all the strategies they learned to solve Math equations! They love challenging themselves during Sprints, which helped them to be so fluent in Math facts. They can read, write and solve Math stories, which make Math so very real to them in everyday life! Mrs. Colombo is beyond happy that her first year teaching Eureka Math was such a success! She thanks the parents for their patience, trust and help with homework! Once again, by working together we were able to give your children a positive learning experience!**

We found out that we were the “Second Runners Up” in the St. Jude collection that took place during Lent. We were awarded yummy cupcakes as our prize! Thanks to all the families who sent in coins to help with this important fundraiser.

We were sure to say a prayer for all the sick children at St. Jude’s Hospital before we enjoyed our cupcakes! We also kept Matthew’s mom in our prayers this week as she recovers from surgery to help her badly injured knee! We are a class of compassionate and caring students, always ready to pray for the needs of others- the homeless, the poor, the sick, are always in our daily “special needs” prayers. We learned the word parish- as the community where we can come together to praise God and help one another! We know that our parish is St. Ann and our pastor, head of the parish, is Father Carrozza!

We continued to work on our Memory Books, which will be completed by early next week so that we can spend time on the last page- Autographs! We engaged in many conversations about our wonderful year together and are enjoying documenting many special and favorite things! We began working on a few Father’s Day Projects as well so that we can bring them home next week as well!

We continued to work on completing leftover pages in all our workbooks to help us review for Second Grade! All workbooks will be sent home early next week!

We enjoyed art activities with the Kindergarten on Friday! We created amazing paintings and other interesting things as well! We welcomed the “incoming First Graders” to our room and enjoyed showing them around and telling them what to expect in First Grade!

It has been a true pleasure to write these weekly “Wrap- Ups” and share all the wonderful lessons and activities your children were engaged in, week by week , month by month in First Grade! I hope you enjoyed reading them and that your found them helpful in communicating with your children about the comings and goings in First Grade!

Looking forward to seeing you on June 16 for our “Promotion To Second Grade!”

Have a great weekend!