



Balance Balls:

I thought I'd start out with something that may have been a topic of conversation at your home this week. Yes, we now have some students using balance balls as chairs! You may be asking yourself, "Why?!" Well, some teachers have found that having students sit on balance balls, instead of chairs, helps them concentrate and pay more attention in class. After one child brought in a ball, and all the students wanted one, we had a class discussion. I told the students that if they wanted to bring one in, and their parents approved, it was fine with me. However, I told them to really think about whether they think it will help them, or if they just want one because other kids have one. There are also some "rules" associated with having one. They are not allowed to bounce up and down (there is some bit of bouncing and movement that goes along with sitting on the ball, and that is part of what helps it work so well, but they should not be making an effort to bounce up and down). Also, they need to keep both feet on the floor. So far, the students that have brought one in have been doing well with the balls. If they want to try one out, they should see if a classmate who is currently using one would like to let them try it out for part of the day. I think the size that works best for them is about 65 cm. It also sticks nicely to the underside of the desk, so we don't have them rolling all around. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Interestingly, there was an article about this very subject in the Star Tribune on Tuesday. Here it is:
<http://www.startribune.com/local/east/34520179.html?elr=KArksLokD8EQDUoaEggyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPe:4yc:aUnciatkEP7DhU5r>

Family Night:

Don't forget to come to our first family night tonight! It should be a lot of fun! Thanks to all the parents who helped plan this great event!

Math:

We took a math test today in class. The test goes along well with what's been coming home in the homework packet the last couple of weeks and we reviewed in class. You will be seeing the corrected test come home soon. We will be starting chapter 4 tomorrow. Please find the parent letter in the Thursday folder to find out what they will be learning in this new chapter.

Reading:

The students are reading in Spanish each day. Sometimes, you will notice the Reading A-Z books coming home for days in a row. This means that your child is reading other stories, such as the stories in their Trofeos book, or other literature books in addition to their A-Z books. Sometimes we do reread books and stories in

order to become more fluent readers, or to practice our comprehension skills. Ask your child what other things they are reading in class. I have also been reading Sarah, Plain and Tall (In Spanish) to them as a read-aloud book. This book is at a 3rd grade reading level, so it is great for them to get the exposure to new vocabulary by having me read it to them. They really like the story and are excited to hear what is going to happen next.

Spanish Grammar:

We have been making a list of adjectives and verbs we use often. This helps the students think of new words to use when they are writing.

End of the Trimester:

Tomorrow is the end of the 1st trimester. It's hard to believe that so much of the year has already gone by! Teachers will be working on report cards in the coming week and they will go home the Thursday after Thanksgiving. Look for them in your child's Thursday envelope on December 4th.

Coming Up:

- November 20th - PTO Family Night
- November 21st - End of 1st Trimester
- November 26th - 28th No school for Thanksgiving Break
- December 4th - Report Cards Go Home
- December 8th - PTO Meeting
- December 16th - McDonalds Night
- December 20th-January 4th - Winter Break