

.....

Kachemak Selo Elementary News

January 2023

I can't believe we are in 2023!

And I think this is going to be an exciting year.

We finished our Little House in the Big Woods reading and will be learning more about the prairie states and the pioneer life.

In math, kindergarten and 1st grades continue gaining number sense and counting skills.

Second grade is learning double digit addition and subtraction.

Third Grade is learning how to determine the area of a rectangle.

Fourth grade is learning how to do multi digit multiplication.

This year we have been practicing the science of reading and it is positively impacting all of our readers. Vowel teams, r- controlled vowels, open and closed syllables; practicing these rules of English are helping our students read with more fluency which will free up space in their brains for comprehension and deeper ideas about the text and the author's purpose.

A NOTE ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

This year, our school received a grant from the Carrs/Safeway to help us pay for transportation for field trips. It may surprise you to learn that the purpose of our school going on field trips is more than students having fun. For English Language Learners, being exposed to new sights and experiences gives their brains anchors to attach new vocabulary to. Think of a velcro ball being tossed onto a smooth surface versus another piece of velcro. You have to give information something to stick too.

Because we are a small school in a small village, field trips provide our educational team opportunities to explain real world situations to students in an organic way that helps deepen their understanding of English. An example of this was during our drive to Seward last fall. We were driving behind the Soldotna Hospital and I

said, "I always liked this neighborhood." Someone asked, "What is a neighborhood?" Arena explained that it was an area in which people lived. "Like a village?" Someone asked. We were then able to extend the conversation to include the ideas of village, town, community, block, neighborhood, city, etc.

Our school will be scheduling field trips this semester. Please know that students will be supervised by Russian staff and that all expectations that we have for students in school will be expected on the trips. All cultural rules and expectations will be upheld.

I will be writing lesson plans for each trip with a focus on deepening our students' English and Russian language proficiency.

As always, please call me or Whatsapp me if you have any questions.

This village is a wonderful place for your children. I am lucky to be a part of it.