



A Letter from our 1st Grade Teacher, Mrs. Amsden

First Grade is off to a great start this year! We have a hard working group of students with a genuine thirst for knowledge. We started the year learning about the eclipse and that led us to learning more about "Our Sky". We made different lengths of rods and measured the shadows they made outside at different times of the day to show how shadows change as the Earth rotates each day. We also set up a model of four phases of the moon in our classroom to learn that the moon does not change its shape. We just see different parts of the lighted side of the moon at different times during the month. We have been reading up a storm and this week we started taking Reading Counts quizzes. I think we have all logged in successfully and taken at least one Reading Counts quiz. We strongly encourage the students to read any book that interest them, not just Scholastic books. Mrs. Berkkbigler has book reports that students can complete and we promise they will get credit for their reading. Weekly spelling words, sight words, and vocabulary words used in sentences are helping to strengthen our language skills. We have a new writing station and will soon be using the writing process to publish our writing. We are ready to take our first assessment in math! We've been learning to subitize groups of objects up to ten! For those of you who may be wondering...subitizing is being able to look at a group or set and know how many objects are in it without counting. Mastering this skill will help us master our basic math facts later in the school year. We have learned to model addition problems using unifix cubes and two-sided counters. Our Hands-On math learning stations have given our students lots of opportunities to use many of our math manipulatives for learning. We are getting ready to explore and learn more about numbers in our Base Ten number system next week! Finally, we have learned about the Blessed Trinity and how to make the sign of the cross correctly. We are now learning about the Holy Family. Last Friday, was our first all school mass without prayer partners and all the first grade students were wonderful!