

September 16 - 20



We've had an exciting and eventful week here in Room 215!

Our ladybugs formed pupas early this week. We watched as they . . . well . . . basically did absolutely NOTHING for a few days. We thought that they might even have been DEAD! Now we have a few actual **LADYBUGS!** Come to visit and see for yourself!☺ We plan to release them early next week.

We enjoyed our first PEP RALLY on Thursday afternoon. In a word . . . WOW! We worked with "short e" this week (always tricky with Kentucky accents!), and introduced the concept of ADJECTIVES in Language Arts.

Our mathematical explorations for the week have included TELLING TIME (to the HALF-HOUR), examining and counting PENNIES and NICKELS, and ADDITION FACTS WITHIN TEN. We have learned about the "Commutative Property of Addition," which states that addends can be added in any order, and a sum will remain the same ($3+4=7$; therefore $4+3=7$).

In science - in addition to our many ladybug observations, we have begun to delve into the characteristics and life cycles of PLANTS. We began with APPLES and will continue with PUMPKINS in October.

We first fell in love with Charley Cornett (from Rebecca Caudill's sweet book, Did You Carry the Flag Today, Charley?), set in Appalachia. Now we have become absolutely obsessed with another precocious preschooler named Sam Krupnik. Ask your child about Lois Lowery's All About Sam. You may have read some books by Lois Lowery yourself. Do you remember reading Number

the Stars and The Giver in Middle School? Did you moms enjoy books about Anastasia Krupnik? (Sam is her adorable and very entertaining baby brother.)

MAPS testing in MATH went smoothly on Wednesday. As you review your child's MAPS scores, I'd like to remind you that the READING test does not actually test how well your child can READ. It asks questions related to comprehension, punctuation, grammar, etc. But it READS everything TO your child through his/her headphones. It's truly a "language arts" test - but not truly a test of "reading!" Also . . . you can expect some peaks and dips in your child's scores throughout First Grade. We say that Kindergarten and First Grade trajectories often look like a "roller coaster." Things will begin to level out (and, hopefully, show consistent improvement) in Second and Third Grades. We're also anxious to see how our new math curriculum impacts our math scores. We expect something of a decline in scores this year (as compared to years past), as both students and teachers are adjusting to new procedures and vocabulary. Don't be surprised, and don't panic!

Wondering about ways in which you can assist your child at home? . . . Be sure to check his/her folder each and every night, going over school papers together. Take special note if your child has had difficulty with a particular concept. Maybe a little extra attention and practice at home could help! We're a TEAM!!!

AND . . . **OH MY GOSH!!!! COUNT BACKWARDS!!!!** As we prepare to begin a focus on SUBTRACTION, we have discovered that the overwhelming majority of our class cannot COUNT DOWN from 20. Practice counting back from 20 first, then 30, then 40, and finally 50. This will help so much as we begin to SUBTRACT!!!!

Coming up:

School pictures (both group and individual) on Tuesday, October 1st

Fall Break from October 5-12

Field trip to Farnsley-Moremen Riverside Landing on Wednesday, October 16th

--- please return forms and payment by the beginning of Fall Break (October 4th).