

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Notes

### May 27, 2009

- **Pacing Guides:**
  - August 19<sup>th</sup> – August 28<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to “First Grade Getting Started Activities” teachers may use the “Inventory Lessons” which comes with StoryTown or they may use other “Balanced Literacy Activities”
  - Lessons will be packaged in a six week block of 5 lessons. Teachers will be expected to complete all 5 lessons within the six week time frame.
  - Teachers can adjust and re-teach lessons as they see fit within the six week time frame.
  - Entire year of Pacing Guides will be posted on district web site at the beginning of August
  - A hard copy of the Pacing Guide will be sent to your building for each teacher at the beginning of the school year
  - Pacing Guide’s format will be reviewed at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Reading Workshop Ideas and Materials Needed:**
  - Use the Challenge Resource Kit with the upper level students
  - Use the StoryTown Web games that can be found on the district’s resource page. Click “resource” at the top of the page, and then select “teacher” then choose the Harcourt Resources. This site has many ideas for all grade levels.
  - Use the “Watch Me Read and Phonics Bookshelf” books. These books can be ordered from the copy center.
  - Let students use 1-minute sand timers to monitor their reading progress. These were purchased from “Really Good Stuff”
  - Would like more leveled reader books
- **Word Wall Words:**
  - Main focus will be on the spelling list
  - Will keep district word wall list
  - Will not focus on the StoryTown high frequency words
- **Assessments:**
  - Theme Test: The decision to give the theme tests, or parts of the theme tests will be a building/grade level decision
  - Weekly Test: The decision to give weekly tests will be a classroom teacher decision
  - DRA: We will still give the test, but we can move the testing date to the fall or winter. Teachers should e-mail Cindy their thoughts on moving this assessment date. Nothing has been decided at this time, but we will keep the assessment
- **Questions or Ideas:**
  - Concern that we have too many list of words for students to know
  - Writing: some teachers are still using the 4-Block writing model but incorporating their writing lesson and grammar lesson into this model
  - Do not like the Read-Aloud book, would prefer to have the actual “trade books” to use with the students that have better pictures in them to demonstrate the Robust Vocabulary words
  - Would like 1 copy of each of the “Watch Me Read and Phonics Bookshelf” books for each building so teachers could look at them to plan.