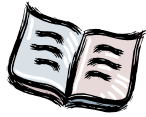


# First Grade News

## October 2011

### **Winfield Mission Statement**

*"Winfield School is a community of motivated learners working together to achieve each individual's highest potential"*



### Units of Study:

In **Math** students are continuing to work on number sense. Activities will be coming home to help reinforce the concepts we are working on in class.

In **Social Sciences** students are preparing for the unit of study on seeds.

In **ILA we have finished assessments!** We are working in small groups for reading instruction and literacy centers. Word wall notebooks are coming home, please remember to review past words as well as present ones. We consider a sight word mastered when the student can recognize it in less than 3 seconds as well as spell it correctly from memory in their writing. We are continuing to retell the beginning, middle and end of stories as well as make connections. Please see the attached handout about Reading Powers.



### For Your Information:

**Conferences:** Parents are encouraged to contact the school to schedule a conference with teachers. Conference dates are October 10<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Vacations:** Please remember to send in a note to the office for approval before you take a vacation. All work missed due to family vacations may be made up once your child returns from the trip. Work cannot be sent home prior to the trip. Thanks for your understanding.

**Weather:** The weather is changing everyday. Please make sure your child is prepared for chilly weather inside and out. At this time of year we suggest layers so they can adjust to the changing temperatures.



### Upcoming Events:

Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 hour and 45 minute Early Dismissal
Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Interims come home
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Department Visit
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/ Teacher Conferences
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Flumist
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Schools Closed
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/ Teacher Conferences

### Team Members:

*Mrs. Brauning,  
Ms. Sharpnack,  
Ms. Meister,  
Mrs. Petry,  
Ms. Coppersmith and  
Mrs. Jonsson*

# Reading Power

Helping Your Children Become  
More Powerful Readers and Thinkers

## A Guide for Parents

*“Meaning is constructed in the realm where readers meet the words in the text and consider the ideas in terms of their own experience and knowledge”*

- Stephanie Harvey

## What is Reading Power?

Reading Power is a reading comprehension program that helps students develop comprehension skills to become more powerful readers and thinkers. The five comprehension strategies, or Reading Powers, we are teaching are:

- 1) **Connecting** – What does the story remind me of?
- 2) **Question** – What am I wondering about this story?
- 3) **Visualize** – What pictures can I make in my head from this story?
- 4) **Infer** – What am I thinking about this story that isn't actually written?
- 5) **Transform** – How has my thinking changed because of this story?

## What are the Key Ideas?

Learning to read involves two distinct, yet equally important components:

**Decoding** – the ability to read the words on the page with fluency and accuracy

**Comprehension** – the ability to construct meaning from the text

Comprehension strategies need to be **taught directly** and explicitly so that students can understand what “thinking” looks like and sounds like

**Common language** of these thinking strategies is essential for helping students acquire the “language of thinking” across the grades

**Meta-cognition**, or “awareness of thinking”, is an important component to this program

Teachers and parents can **model** their **thinking voice** while they read to and with their children to help teach and reinforce the strategies

We have two voices: a “**speaking voice**” and a “**thinking voice**”. Good readers **pay attention** to their **thinking voice** while they read.