



HELLO  
FROM IH!



Cairo American  
College

September 18th, 2005

## Wonderful Watermelon Day!

### Watermelon Day...

Watermelon day was a HUGE success! Thank you to everyone for dressing the kids in watermelon colors – they all looked so awesome! An important and fun part of the day for the children was meeting all of the other first grade teachers and for me it was meeting all of the other first graders! It is so nice to put faces to many of the names that I hear each day. The children sang a watermelon song with Ms. Jennie, read a watermelon story with Ms. Lillian had a watermelon seed spitting contest with Ms. Neff, and painted watermelon frames with me. We then had a great time doing a watermelon rolling relay before getting to munch on fresh, juicy watermelon!

A big THANK YOU to Melanie, Alice, Elaine, and Vanessa for helping the kids paint their frames and ensuring that everything went smoothly on Watermelon Day!

### Math

We have moved onto a unit on counting and measuring. We are looking carefully at numbers and learning that they can be made from different combinations. For example 10 can be made with 4 and 6 or 7 and 3. At home you can help by encouraging your child to count and tally objects, e.g. trees in the backyard, cushions in the living room. You can also help your child look for quantities of ten as a whole and numbers less than ten as parts of a whole. For example, there are ten bowling pins and your child may only knock down 4, or there are ten cars on the street and three are red.

### Reading

Red Hot reader is up and running! Thank you so much to our red hot reader mom volunteers – Melanie, Nita, Elaine, Hend, Claudia, Alice, and Margaret.

So far we have talked about the first three decoding strategies. Our first strategy is, "Look at the pictures". Books that are written for beginning readers are designed so that the pictures help the reader to read the words. I have been emphasizing the importance of using the pictures to help figure out what the words say and also of doing a "picture walk" before beginning to read as it helps get a sense of what the book is all about. Remember to remind your child to do a picture walk before reading their red hot reader book at home. We have also learned to "Get your mouth ready" and "Reread..." when we come to a word that we do not know it is important that we get our mouth ready to say it. For example, if the word is big we get our mouth ready to say "B". We also talked about rereading and thinking about whether what we read looks right, sounds right and makes sense. If we answer no to these questions it is important to go back and **reread!** Please remember to praise your child if you see them using any of these strategies to figure out a word they do not know.

### Science

We have started our first science unit called "Critters". So far we have focused on learning about insects. We have learned that insects have 6 legs and three body parts called the head, thorax, and abdomen. We drew insect bodies and then made them with dough. We also discovered that insects usually have wings and many other fascinating facts.

### Dates to Remember

#### September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Specialist Open House, come and meet your child's other teachers! 5-6pm **and** ES family Picnic – 6-7pm