

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

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Dear Families and Friends,

The children are slowly starting to get into the routine of school and their First Grade classroom. Adjusting to a full day of school with specific activities to complete can be challenging. I am sure many of the children are tired by the end of the day and need to get outside and play with their friends. As a result you won't see any specific homework coming home until later in September. I hope however that everyone is finding time to read during the week.

Thank you for being so prompt in sending back the paperwork needed in the office. It certainly makes Mrs. Waite's job easier if all of our information for you is current and up to date and helps me to know their end of the day plans.

I hope you all have a fun weekend with your children. Give me a call if you have any specific questions or concerns for your child.

Upcoming Events

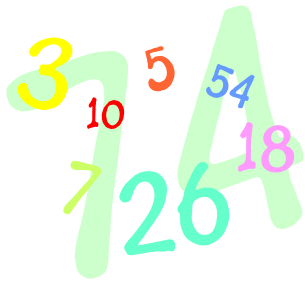
Open House and Curriculum Night will be on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30-7:30.

Readers' Workshop

Your children will spend a great deal of time reading this year. We are currently learning how to find a "just right" book as many first graders arrive reading at a variety of levels. During the year they will work independently, with partners and in small guided reading groups.

I have begun during informal reading assessments of their sight word recognition and will soon work to establish a specific text level for them using a new reading assessment called Fountas and Pinnell.

We are also starting to discuss how use different reading strategies when we become "stuck" on an unknown word.



Everyday Math

The children will use math journals this year. These journals stay at school until we have completed them. As a result you may not see a large number of math work coming home. Instead, I will send home the parent letter at the beginning of each unit to let you know what our focus will be.

Everyday Math is designed upon a spiral continuum and as a result the routines that we will use this year will be the building blocks for the upcoming years ahead.

We have been reviewing some basic concepts learned in Kindergarten and will begin Unit 2 next week. As a result I have sent home the newsletter for this unit in their Friday Folders. You may find it helpful to keep as it will help you learn the Math vocabulary and routines that we are using in our classroom.

Study of Plants



One of our Science Units for First Grade is about plants. We will learn about the life cycle of plants as well as the parts of a plant and its importance.

This week we spent some time examining bean seeds that had been soaked in water. This allowed us to locate the baby plant inside. We also read Gail Gibbons book titled, From Seed to Plant. In the weeks ahead we will conduct some more plant activities and hopefully plant some bulbs later in the fall.

Other Important Information

Please remember that your children will need their sneakers on Tuesdays and Fridays as we have PE. Our class will visit the Learning Center on Thursday mornings. They can also return their library books on any day of the week during snack time.