

# First Grade News from Room 12

## Contact Information

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Dear Families and Friends,

Hello! I hope your children are all enjoying First Grade and now feel more in the school routine. In class we are continuing to work on transitions from one activity to another and learning how to listen to directions for our independent work.

This week in their Friday folders you will find a reading log. Please keep this at home and it can be sent back towards the end of October. I hope all of the children can find at least 3-4 times a week to read at home. For early readers this may involve you reading to them aloud from picture books and Early Readers so they may begin to recognize sight words and start to join in and read aloud parts or sections to you. Give me a call if you have any questions.

As you know Picture Day is coming soon. You may send back the picture envelope early if you find that helpful. I am keeping them in a large envelope.

Finally, we have been able to schedule a field trip to Hackett's Apple Orchard on October 5th. Please look in the Friday Folder for the information and permission slip. Thank you.

Enjoy the fall weekend ahead with your children.

## Upcoming Events

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

Field Trip to Hackett's Apple Orchard on October 5th

Picture Day is October 6th.

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## Readers' Workshop

We have begun to learn how to do Personal Reading. The children and I are selecting books for their reading folders. During this time of day they read their books and at times read them to friends. They also have word finds to do that may reflect a particular phonics skill like short vowel words, rhyming words... Some of the children are beginning to answer comprehension questions related to their book. Others are working on rebuilding a sentence about their book after reading it to me. Once this part of our day becomes more of a routine, I will be able to begin Guided Reading Groups.

We have also been enjoying the chapter book, James and the Giant Peach during our Read Aloud times. This gives us the opportunity to review story events and learn new vocabulary words as well as have fun together.

## Everyday Math

So far in Unit 2 we have been working on counting by 5s and 2s. We also have reviewed how to use the number grid and count on or backwards from a given number. The children enjoy playing the game, Roll to 50 or 100 when they finish their work. We will continue to work on writing our numbers correctly and try not to have any backwards numbers.

In the Friday Folder you will find a paper clock that the children made and an example of a Home Link. Home Links will be sent home in Friday Folders and can be returned the following week by Thursday. This gives families the opportunity to do these Homework pages at times that best fits into their schedules.

## Study of Plants



During our study of plants we have discussed the life cycle of plants with seeds. We also have identified the parts of a plant and discussed their function.

We had the opportunity to pull apart milkweed pods and sunflowers so that we could look at these parts more closely. We attempted to have bean seeds sprout in plastic bags, but due to the little natural sunlight that comes into our room, our experiment wasn't as successful for everyone. Some of the children wanted to try it at home on their own.

## Writers' Workshop

The children have begun to write their first story. We talked about how to select an idea that is important to us because we would have a lot to say about it. I have given them important words related to their story so they do not have to "stretch out" all of their unknown words.

During this first story we will focus on staying to our topic and using details in our illustrations to help tell the story. We will also try to use lower case letters as much as possible and begin to use ending punctuation.