

# September Newsletter

**Critical Thinking Skills:** Breaking down a whole into parts that may not be immediately obvious and examining the parts so that the structure of the whole is understood

**Academic Success Skills:** working effectively and respectfully to read a group goal



## Reading:

First graders are beginning the year with an introduction to reading comprehension strategies to apply before, during, and after they read a story. They will read stories and identify the characters and setting. They will also begin an author study of Kevin Henkes.

Students will also be involved in various word study activities to develop high frequency words as well as decoding and spelling strategies.

## Writing:

First graders are learning the components of the writing process—prewriting, rough draft, revising, editing, and publishing. We will be using these components to write personal narratives. Proper handwriting skills are also being introduced.

## Math:

Students will begin the month reviewing strategies and concepts learned in Kindergarten. Then we will begin representing numbers up to 120 in various forms and identifying patterns on a hundreds chart. We will also identify numbers that are greater than, less than and equal.

## Social Studies:

Students are exploring how and why rules exist. We will be comparing rights and responsibilities within the classroom community and beyond. We will identify important people and symbols in our country's history.

## Science:

During the month of September the students will be observing and comparing plants and animals. They will be exploring the different ways plants and animals meet their basic needs.

## Homework:

Homework will begin Sept. 12. Students will bring home the assignments on Monday and they should be returned each Friday.

## First Grade Team:

### Mrs. Amy Fletcher

Amy\_K\_Fletcher@mcpsmd.org

### Ms. Kim Walder

Kimberly\_Walder@mcpsmd.org

### Mrs. Tiffany Wagner

Tiffany\_M\_Wagner@mcpsmd.org

### Mrs. Cathy Edmundson

Cathleen\_L\_Edmondson@mcpsmd.org

### Mr. Mark Johnson

Mark\_Johnson@mcpsmd.org

### Mrs. Heather Miller

Heather\_E\_Miller@mcpsmd.org

## Other Information:

•If your child is going home a way other than their normal routine, we ask that you do provide a dated, written note each time (for example: even if it's every Tuesday). A written note will help ensure that your child is properly dismissed. Please limit changes in your child's dismissal routine.

•Please return all paperwork (especially the emergency contact information) as soon as possible.

•Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:30-8:30 for Back To School Night. We will be reviewing the first grade curriculum and schedules.

## First Grade 2011

### Important Dates:

8/29 First Day

8/31: PTA Meeting in APR, 6:30 p.m., parent volunteer orientation

8/31: Parent Volunteer Orientation in APR, 7:00 p.m.

9/2: Flyer Distribution, grade level newsletters go home

9/5: No School

9/6: mClass Testing Window Opens (9/6-9/30)

9/7: Back To School Night for PEP Classic & Intensive Needs Classes, Kindergarten, and First Grades, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

9/8: Back To School Night for PEP Collaborative and Pre K classes, 2nd-5th Grades, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

9/13: Rocky Hill Middle School Back to School Night

9/21: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Chik-Fil-A (Drive through orders do not count toward profits)

9/22: Clarksburg High School Back to School Night

9/28 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Students

9/29: Rosh Hashanah, No School for Students and Teachers

