

First Grade Flash

October News

We are off to a wonderful school year! Our reading initiative program is off to a fantastic start! Please check your child's Book Club bag each night. We send home the books your child has read during their guided reading group. They are to reread the story at home to promote reading fluency.

Halloween Party & Parade

The Halloween parade will begin at 2:00 on Friday, October 30th. We will be having our classroom parties immediately afterwards. Please let your child's teacher know if you would prefer your child not to participate. Alternative activities will be provided.

What we are working on this month...

Language Arts— We are currently studying the concepts of story elements, text features, and writing for personal expression using the six traits of writing. Your child has been working daily in a guided reading group working on phonics, sight words, leveled reading books, and responding to stories in writing.

Math—Our first unit covers number sense, one more and one less, story problems, and using various tools such as the number line and the hundreds chart to solve problems. We have just begun our next unit on patterns.

Science— Our first graders are wonderful scientists! We have been continuing our science unit on **Constructions**. We have been making houses, building fences, and constructing bridges. What fun!

Social Studies - We are going to be learning about citizenship, American symbols, and important leaders.

Reminders:

Water bottles: Students are encouraged to keep water bottles at their desk to cut down on runs to the water fountain. A "sport top" is preferred to keep it from spilling. Please do not send juice or milk.

Homework: Please be sure to check your child's homework each night and return it to school the next day. We will be starting our spelling program in November. More information will be coming!

Parent Volunteers: We received a wonderful response to our parent volunteer letter. You will be receiving a schedule from your classroom teacher shortly.

Parent Conferences: We are looking forward to meeting with you about your child's progress. You should have received a confirmation time from your child's teacher.

Donations Needed: We are in need of baby wipes and Clorox wipes. Thank you!

Important Dates:

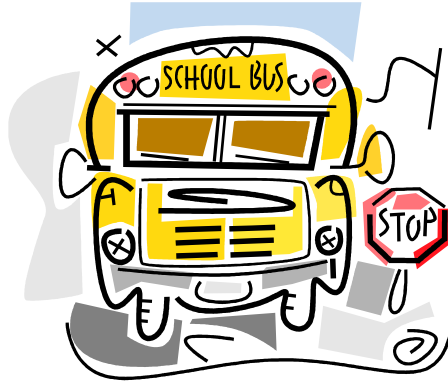
Fri. 10/31 — Halloween Party & Parade

Mon. 11/2 —No School

Wed. 11/11 & Wed 11/12—Early Release—Parent Conferences.

Play Dates & Transportation

Due to the fact that so many of our buses are at or close to capacity, Ritchie Park now has a school policy that students who ride different buses and have "playdates" after school must be **picked up by a parent** rather than presenting a note to the bus driver to allow an extra



student on the bus. Students who ride the same bus that are going home together are permitted to get off at the same stop as long as they have a note. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your child's classroom teacher or the office.

First Grade Keepers

You may have noticed that the first grade teachers have taken a page out of the kindergarten hand book and started using "First Grade Keepers" to keep all of our folders, papers and homework organized. **Your child's First Grade Keeper should come home every night.** It is where you will find any papers or



newsletters from the school or county, homework and your child's behavior folder. The behavior folder is part of a school wide initiative to keep you aware of your child's behavior through out the day.

Please be sure to initial the appropriate box each night when you check your child's homework. There is another copy of the behavior letter attached to this newsletter that was sent home at the beginning of the school year if you need to review how we use this folder in class. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Homework Routine

Monday – Make and Break – In their first grade Keeper there is a folder labeled Make and Break. Students will bring home a sentence we created using sight words. It will have been cut up into individual words and their job as homework is to glue it onto the paper in their folder. Then they should practice writing it 3 times to work on proper sentence structure and handwriting.

Tuesday – Respond to a story in writing. A paper with a writing prompt will be sent home. Student should draw a detailed picture and write at least one complete sentence. Please encourage them to work independently (but under your supervision) and try their best. We are not looking for perfect spelling but rather for them to write the sounds they hear which will give us a better indication of where they are in their writing skills.

Wednesday – A math worksheet will be sent home. Please check it with your child.

Thursday – Read for 10 minutes and talk about the book. You have several options. You can read to your child, they can read to you or you can take turns. Any book from home is fine. When we start guided reading, students will bring home "book bags" with books appropriate for their reading level so you may choose from them as well. Have your child retell the story to you as best they can and talk about what they did or didn't like about the book.

There is no homework on the weekends!

Remember, you are your child's first teacher. The time you spend with them on their homework is just as important as the work we do in school. As always, thank you for all your help and support.

Inside Story Headline

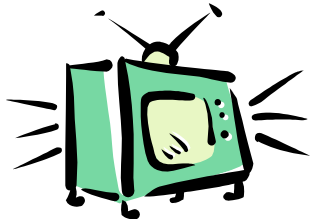
This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your

readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics

but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new pro-

cedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

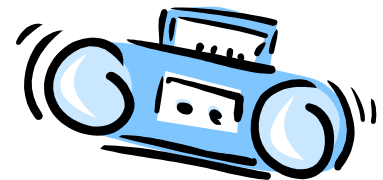
This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Ritchie Park Elementary School

Primary Business Address
Your Address Line 2
Your Address Line 3
Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
Email: xyz@microsoft.com

► Your business tag line
here.

We're on the Web!
example.microsoft.com



Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

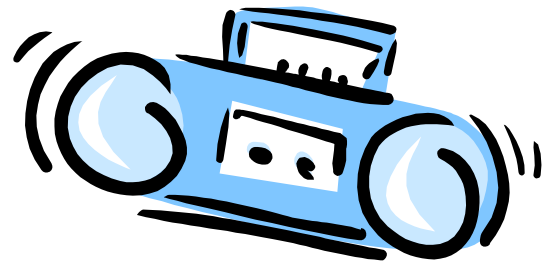
A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.