

# THE TERRAPIN TIMES

First Grade, October 2009  
Sargent Shriver Elementary School  
301-929-4426

The students have already made an excellent transition from Kindergarten to First Grade. They have come prepared with reading and writing strategies, as well as some wonderful math concepts that are a great foundation for first grade learning.

Our main focus across the curriculum is independence and problem solving through oral language. Students will be given opportunities to work independently and strengthen their problem solving skills every day. Here are the areas we will be exploring this month:

## READING LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Rhyming
- *Before, During and After Reading Strategies\**
- Developing Comprehension: Character, Setting, Problem and Solution
- Text Features in non-fiction books
- Generating Ideas and writing about them
- Expressing Personal Ideas using Pictures and/or Words
- Word Study
- Practicing High Frequency words

## MATH:

- Story problems
- Counting Numbers by 1, 2, 5, and 10
- Counting Pennies and Nickels
- Visual Patterns
- Number Patterns
- Number Grids
- Adding and Subtracting using the number line

## SCIENCE:

- Rocks, Sand and Soil

## SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Rules and Laws

- Responsibilities
- DeBug
- No Put-Downs

## Parent Tip: *Before, During and After Reading Strategies\**

**Before:** Have your child look at the pictures in the book, make predictions or ask questions about the story.

**During:** Have your child check to see that what s/he reads makes sense, looks right, and sounds right. Have your child reread a sentence if needed.

**After:** Have your child retell the story, checking the beginning, middle and end of the story. Have your child tell you if the predications were accurate or if any of their questions were answered.

## October Events:

**October 5 –First Grade Homework begins**  
**October 30 - Halloween Party and Parade**

## Looking Ahead:

**November 11 and 12 – Parent Conferences**

**Your support at home is very important. Now that homework is becoming a regular part of your child's nightly routine, please help her/him by providing a quiet place for your child to work on her/his own. Please help your child bring the homework bag to school every day. It should include the book and homework log they brought home.**

**We will be visiting our school's Media Center every two weeks and checking out books. If your child brings media books home to enjoy, please help your child return the books when they are due so s/he can check out new ones.**

**We look forward to working with you and your child this year.**

**-The First Grade Team**