



First Grade Newsletter

September, 2011

Welcome first grade students and parents! We are very excited to be working with all of you this year. We will be very busy during this month as we begin Reading Initiative. We are sure that it will be a great success. We are looking forward to a happy and productive year in first grade.

Curriculum Update:

Reading Initiative will be instituted using the Balanced Literacy Approach. The students will participate in all components of the approach, including Read Aloud, Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Independent Reading, Modeled Writing, Shared/Interactive Writing, Writing Workshop, and Independent Writing. The skills include

the use of language, context clues and phonics for reading. For writing, the focus includes the use of visual and spelling patterns in writing as well as grammar, usage, capitalization in writing and speaking. The students will practice writing stories with sequence in mind as well as working on a good ending. We will begin handwriting practice this month to be continued until all letters are introduced.

We will begin Math this marking period by focusing on numeration and counting. Place value will be introduced with the concepts of tens and ones. The student will locate whole numbers on a number line by using counting strategies. They will model the concept of addition. They will find sums and differences using counting strategies such as counting on and counting back. Remember to have your child practice his/her basic addition and subtraction facts. Flashcards really help!

We will start our Life Science unit with observing plants and animals in their habitat. We will be collecting samples and discussing basic needs and pet safety.

In Social Studies, the students will focus on the We Need Rules Unit. This includes understanding why we have rules and how we can fulfill classroom and community responsibilities.

Stay tuned to hear about all of the exciting activities that support these units!

Important Dates:

September 5: Labor Day, No School

September 6: Back to School Night

September 28: Early release day, dismissal at 12:30

September 29: No School: Rosh Hashanah

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team

Mrs. Fitzgerald

Ms. Laird

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Puckett

Ms. Veith