



## **First Grade Newsletter September, 2009**

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.

We will begin Math this marking period by focusing on Unit 1. Unit 1 is Numeration and Counting. The student will locate whole numbers on a number line by using counting strategies. They will model the concept of addition. They will model the concept of subtraction as take-away, comparison and missing addends. 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 Science with the Rocks, Sand and Soil Unit. Students will investigate, classify, examine and compare rocks and soil samples. We will also be observing earthworms!

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 responsibilities.

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

**Important Dates:**

September 7: Labor Day, No School

September 8: Back to School Night

September 28: No School: Yom Kippur

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team

Mrs. Fitzgerald

Ms. June

Ms. Laird

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Miller