

## First Grade News

October 6, 2014

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a great weekend! We are in the process of scheduling conferences with all families. Please be sure to let your child's teacher know your preference as soon as possible. Every effort is made to schedule your conference at a preferred time!

### **Phonics/Penmanship:**

This week we will begin learning Word Wall Words! These are words that the children will encounter almost every day as they read and write. So we want the children to be able to read and write these words in a "SNAP". They are high frequency words that the children should be able to read from sight and not by stretching them or sounding them out. Therefore, we introduce 5 new words on Monday and practice reading and writing them until Friday. We would appreciate your support with this at home. Many parents take these words and place them on index cards. They use the cards as flash cards and have their child practice reading and writing them. You can also ask your child to become "Word Detectives" and they can search for these special words in books! We will have a "word wall quiz" every Friday where the children will practice writing each of the five words independently.

**Tonight's Homework:** Please complete the word wall paper. Our 5 new word wall words this week are: **I, like, me, and, the.**

### **Reading:**

This will be a very exciting week for your child during reading! The children will start to read books that are at their "just right" level. They will keep these books that they have personally "shopped" for in their book bins. When it is time to partner read, they take their book bins with them and meet in a special place to read together. We will also be beginning Small Group Instruction. This will be the time when we pull small groups of children who are reading on or around the same level or who have similar reading behaviors. We will use this time to teach more individualized lessons on decoding skills and comprehension strategies. The children will be able to take home some of their "just right" books and their book from their Small Group Instruction group to celebrate for Reading Homework on Tuesdays. Within the next few weeks, on Tuesdays, your child will bring home a Ziploc bag with a book in it. Have your child share these books with you at home. You will also find a Parent Comment Book that you may use to write comments or questions about your child's reading. Please remember that we will do our best to write back, but it won't come home to you until the following Tuesday. You do not have to write in the

journal every week BUT please remember to send the bag (with all of its contents) back with your child the very next day!

### **Writing**

This week the children will learn that writers use words they know to spell new and more challenging words. By helping children draw on the words they already know how to spell to tackle words they want to write, they will progress from spelling in a phoneme-by-phoneme way toward hearing and recording chunks of words. They will learn to hear parts of words that are the same to write unfamiliar words more efficiently. The builder words that you see on our Word wall homework (and, like) will be the starting point for this important work. The children will learn that if they know a snap word, then they know how to spell many other words. Once a builder word is introduced, the children will become responsible for spelling word variations independently.

### **Health**

We continue to have wonderful conversations with the children using our Second Steps Program. We are beginning a new unit on Empathy. The goals of the unit are to:

- \*identify and understand their own and others' feelings.
- \*begin to take others' perspectives.
- \*show compassion for others.

### **Odds and Ends:**

- \*We have an Early Dismissal on Tuesday, October 7 at 1:40 pm.
- \*October 8 is Picture Day!

Respectfully yours,

Allison Cabezas  
Debbie Jacobs  
Maureen Rojee