

## First Grade Newsletter

September 22, 2014

Dear Parents,  
We hope you had a wonderful weekend!

### **Homework for the Week:**

(Please note that homework should be returned via your child's yellow Take-Home Folder the next school day, unless otherwise noted).

**\*Monday and Tuesday** -Please complete the I Like Me paper that is coming home in your child's Take-Home folder for homework tonight and again for homework tomorrow night.

**\*Wednesday** - Second Step review

**\*Thursday and Friday** - No Homework

### Penmanship

We have learned that some letters and numbers have backward circle line (O, C), horizontal lines (F, G) and vertical lines (H, D). This week we will start to practice writing numerals.

### Reading Workshop

This week we will begin to focus on specific reading strategies that the students can use to figure out tricky words. Readers learn to figure out tricky words by looking at the picture, thinking about what makes sense and by getting their mouths ready. Please see the attached reading strategy poster that the children use in the classroom. Please keep this poster at home for reference.

How can you help: As your child begins to read books at home, please help reinforce these beginning strategies. Instead of telling your child a tricky word, suggest a strategy!

### Writing Workshop

Last week we began to practice using a writing partner to help plan stories. It was amazing to see how the students were about to share their stories, ask each other questions to find out more and plan new ideas. At the end of last week, each student picked his or her personal best story to publish. They were able to reread it, add new ideas to tell more and add details to

the pictures with color. They also added a cover page and thought of a title, just like real authors do!

**How can you help?**

\*\*\*\*Please send in photographs that will spark story ideas for your children. Please jot a little note on the back of the picture to help foster a conversation in the classroom.

**Math Workshop**

We have been busy working on number combinations. We introduced the Math Rack as a tool to continue to build the students' number sense. Please follow the link to download the free app that we sometimes use in the classroom.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/number-rack-by-math-learning/id496057949?mt=8>

**Parent Readers Needed**

Each first grade will invite Parent Readers into the classroom on Thursdays from 3:00-3:20. This is a great opportunity to read to your child's class! A sign-up sheet was sent home last week. If you would still like to be a parent reader, please email your child's teacher **today**. Once the schedules are created, it is difficult to add new readers.

Respectfully yours,  
Allison Cabezas  
Debbie Jacobs  
Maureen Rojee

## **DECODING PROMPTS**



**LOOK AT THE  
PICTURES.**



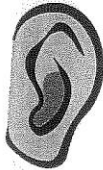
**DOES IT MAKE SENSE?**



**REREAD THE  
SENTENCE.**



**GET YOUR MOUTH  
READY TO SAY THE  
FIRST SOUND.**



**DOES IT SOUND  
RIGHT?**



**DOES IT LOOK RIGHT?**

cat sentence

**LOOK FOR CHUNKS.**