

First Grade Newsletter

October 8, 2018

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to meeting with you to let you know all of the great things that are happening in first grade! We will have an **early dismissal** on **Wednesday, October 10 and Thursday, October 11 at 1:40pm.**

Word Wall Words

Starting today, your child will bring home 5 new Word Wall Words on most Mondays. These words come from a list of over 110 high frequency words that first graders should know how to read and spell in a SNAP! High frequency words (sight words) are commonly used words that young children are encouraged to memorize as a whole by sight, so that they can automatically recognize these words in print without having to use any strategies to decode. Memorization can be tedious and boring for first graders. We are sending home a Word Wall Word Menu to help you with this task. The menu is loaded with great ideas that make working on the words fun! Feel free to come up with your own activities as well. We ask that first graders try at least 3 activities a week from the menu. Feel free to send in any work or write down the names of any activities you try with your child by the end of the week. The menu and the directions for each activity are coming home today. We will have a checkpoint every other week to see how the kids are doing with the words.

After School Activities

Please continue to send a dismissal note when your child has an After School Activity to confirm that they are going that day.

Second Steps

One of the main goals for the children this year is for them start monitoring their bodies. Students who can self-regulate are better able to participate in and benefit from classroom instruction. We have introduced many strategies to help children. Here is what we are working on:

- *Following the **four listening rules** (eyes watching, ears listening, voice quiet, body still).
- *Focusing attention with our **Attent-o-scope**.
- ***Following directions** - listening to all the directions helps you know what to do in class.
- *Using **self-talk** to help us focus and maintain attention.
- *Being **Assertive** -telling our peers and teachers what we need.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell will begin this week. Please refer to the information sheet that was sent home last week.

Parent Readers

Thank you to our room parents for sending out the info for Parent Reader. Below is a link to Sign Up Genius for each class. You can click on it and pick a date that you, your spouse, or a grandparent would be available to read to our class. We do not do birthday readers in first grade so this is a great substitution. You can sign up more than one time (multiple dates). When it is your turn to come in to read to the class make sure to bring at least 5-6 picture books with you. This is your turn to read so the first graders will be ready to listen (no need to prepare lessons, questions, or activities). The children are learning what fluent reading sounds like and you will be our model ;)! We encourage every parent to choose at least one date since it means a lot to your first grader to see you in the classroom.

Mrs. Jacobs' class:

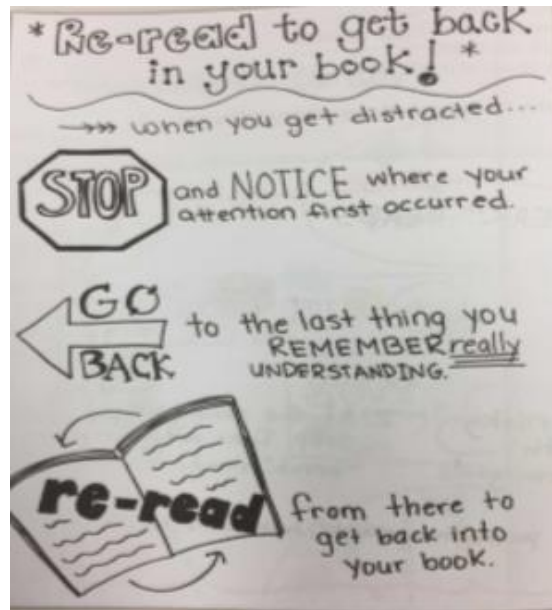
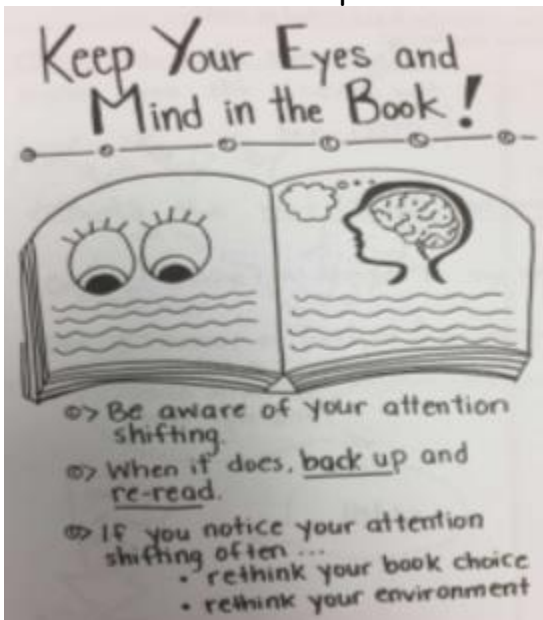
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4baeae2ca3f85-parent>

Mrs. Hafford's class:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054eacab2da5fc1-parent>

Reading Workshop

Being an engaged reader means keeping not just your eyes but also your mind on the book. We are learning that as you read, you need to be aware of your attention shifting. When it does, we have learned to back up and reread.



Writing Workshop

Last week we taught the children different ways to *Bring Stories to Life*. Here is a poster that we use in the classroom.



Math Workshop

Last week all of our investigations focused on exploring the idea of doubles ($1+1=2$, $2+2=4$). We are now seeing doubles in everyday life. When we go shopping at the grocery store, we can see doubles when we buy eggs, juice boxes or packs of water. Oh, what fun it is to explore doubles! Here is a link to a fun song that we watched in the classroom to help reinforce doubles.

Doubles Rap

<https://safeshare.tv/submit?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DjG6n5xLt-0Q>

How you can help: practice skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s and continue to practice doubles facts.

Respectfully yours,
Debbie Jacobs and Allison Hafford