

Dear Parents,

First Grade is a very busy place! There is so much excitement with all our newly introduced academic units!

We are in need of some supplies. If you are willing to donate, we are looking for sharpened pencils and sticky notes. You may want to ask your child if they need crayons and/or markers for their color bin.

Conferences

Teachers are working on coordinating conferences for families. Every effort will be made to meet with you at your preferred time. However, please note that only one evening conference is scheduled. **Conference slips will be coming home on Friday, March 18th.** Please return them promptly!

Phonics/Penmanship

The words for the week are: **what, saw, him, friend, after**. There will be a test on Friday. Students should complete at least 3 activities from the spelling menu. Miss P loads all of our new words into Spelling City each week, so you may want to give it a try! There are many fun games to help review all of the words!

We have also been learning about contractions.

Reading

We have begun a new unit called Bringing Stories to Life through Fairy Tales and Folktales. This week we will be identifying story elements and looking for narrative patterns in tales. How Can You Help: If you have any folktales/fairy tales at home, please send them to your child's class to enjoy during reading. Please be sure that your child's name is on the book. ****Don't forget to keep track of your reading minutes at home for the Reading Incentive Program!!!!** Today is the first day of the program! This means that on Monday, March 14 week 1 minutes are due! All minutes spent reading at home during the week and on weekends can be included. Grade 1 has a goal of 75 minutes per week! See the website for more details!

Writing

We have had so much fun during Writing Workshop! The students brought in 2 of their favorite books from home and are busy working on writing their reviews of them. The enthusiasm that the students have is absolutely incredible. Be on the lookout for some of our Book Reviews on the bulletin boards during conferences!

Math

This week we will be focusing on the measurement of length. For Tuesday's homework, each student will be asked to trace each member of their family's foot. We will then use them in class.

Science

We just began learning about the rainforest. Each student picked an animal that they would like to study. They have been taking notes about the animal's habitat, prey, predator, description and some interesting facts. They will then work on typing what they have learned on the computer. The end product will be a hardcover book all about their animal.

Library Learning Commons

During LLC time all 1st graders have been introduced to Dance Mat Typing. In order for students to practice typing skills we recommend for them to practice at home for a relatively short period of time on a regular basis. This will be very helpful when we start typing our Rainforest research books.

There is a link on the Virtual Library. No login is required. Your child is bringing home their progress sheet today which will guide you where to start at home.

Spring Party

We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs. Bayers and all of the Room Moms and volunteers who helped to make the Spring Tie-Dye party a great success. Many students have already started to wear them in school. They look so sharp and vibrant! We will wear the shirts on our upcoming field trips and at our end of the year party.

Upcoming Field Trips

Mark your calendars! We have two upcoming field trips this spring. Permission slips and more information will be coming home closer to the date. All parents are welcome to join both trips!

*We will be visiting the Birdcraft Sanctuary on April 8th. Times are TBD.

*We will be visiting the Beardsley Zoo on May 27th from 10:15-1:30. (Rain date is June 3rd).

Respectfully yours,
Abigail Barzottini
Allison Cabezas
Debbie Jacobs