

## First Grade News

September 8, 2015

Dear Parents,

This is our first newsletter of the year! For the next two weeks we will be sending home a hard copy at the beginning of the week. After that, it will be on Infinite Campus. We do our best to relay all important announcements and curriculum updates each week. **Please make it a part of your routine to read the newsletter!**

### Me Bag

Let's get to know you better! Please bring in a Ziploc bag of 3-4 objects/things that tell our class about you and what you like to do. For example: a soccer patch from a game you have played, a dinosaur from your collection, a ribbon from gymnastics or a shell because you enjoy the beach). Along with the bag, please bring in your favorite book and a picture of only you (that I can keep). Make sure to label your bag and your book with your name. We will be holding on to these items for a few weeks but please have them in by Friday, September 11th.

### Word Work/Phonics

As we begin our journey toward literacy for all students, we will start with what's most important to all 6 and 7 year olds-themselves! We will spend the next few weeks of school looking closely at each child's name. We will use this opportunity to develop some important understandings about words and letters. Beginning this week we will start the "Special Person of the Day". Every day a different student will become the special person of the focus of many literacy activities. We're sure you'll hear more about this when it is your child's day!

### Responsive Classroom

The Jennings faculty, along with the entire elementary school district, has undertaken a philosophy on creating school and classroom communities. This philosophy on social curriculum is derived from Responsive Classroom. Responsive Classroom curriculum and materials are created by the Northeast Foundation for Children. The staff and students will be talking a lot during the first weeks of school about our hopes and dreams about the

year and our rules. Each staff member and student will think about his or her hopes and dreams and share them (you may want to ask your child about this). The individual classes will then figure out the kinds of rules they will need if all of us are to reach our hopes and dreams. The whole school has set rules as well.

#### Odds and Ends

\*Your child should bring in a daily water bottle.

\*All classrooms are Nut Free. We will have 1 morning snack. It is important to send in **one healthy snack** each day so that we don't cut into important curriculum times.

\*Please remember to specify the type of dismissal your child will be if you are changing from his/her usual way (car, parent pick-up, bus...).

\*Please remember to send in your child's special things along with a picture.

**We look forward to seeing everyone tonight at Open House. We will meet in Mrs. Barzottini's classroom (room 4).**

Respectfully yours,  
Abigail Barzottini  
Allison Cabezas  
Debra Jacobs