

Welcome to 1B!

**Dear Parents,**

 Welcome to first grade and the first of many newsletters! I greatly enjoyed meeting many new friends this week. I am very excited about working together with you to provide the best possible experience for you and your child. My primary goal is to create a warm loving environment where all children can grow and learn.

Please know that I am available to answer any questions you may have concerning the 2017-2018 school year. You may call the office at 203-255-8320 and leave a message, write a note and send it to school with your child, or e-mail me at abarzottini@fairfieldschools.org. I will be happy to reply as soon as possible.

The first several days of school will be spent on the following:

\*Getting acquainted

\*Settling into class routines

\*Setting the stage for good work habits

\*Learning about acceptable school behavior

**Reader’s Workshop**

We are starting our **Launching Unit** in **Reader’s Workshop**. This first unit primarily centers on setting the stage for future mini-lessons and class expectations while students are quietly reading either at their table or back-to-back with a partner. We will be establishing a Chart of Good Reading Behaviors, Meeting Time Expectations and Reader’s Workshop Routines. This should not be very far off from the children’s experience in Reader’s Workshop from their kindergarten classes of last year. I will also be trying to help the children to build their independent reading stamina. We will be trying to sustain our quiet reading for 5-10 minutes at the beginning of the year and lengthening the time as the weeks progress.

It is my intention to begin Reading Benchmarks fairly soon so I can assess the children’s reading levels. After I know everybody’s level, I can begin guided reading groups as well as get the children‘s classroom reading book bins filled with their “just right” books. These are books the children can read independently. Other books may also be in their reading bins that are of high interest to the children.

During this month we will be involved in activities centered on getting to know each other. The beginning of the year is a great time to get to learn about each other and our families. Look for our “ALL ABOUT ME” posters to be coming home soon!



**Birthdays**

Birthdays are always celebrated during the school year. Food is not and cannot be a part of the school celebration of a birthday due to the number of children who have food allergies.  **In the event of a home party, please send any invitations through the mail (not the classroom) so as not to cause any hurt feelings.**

**Math**

We will begin our first math unit, which focuses on launching the math instructional model and setting up the routines and expectations for our daily math lessons**.** It is entitled **Addition and Subtraction Within Ten**. The children will begin with taking surveys and compiling information into readable graphs. We will be reacquainting the children with the math racks they used last year to help them to quickly see numbers at a glance. We will be playing games such as Capture the Dots and Counters in a Cup. Here is a link to the Parent Handbook that you may find helpful: [http://fpsk5math.wikispaces.com/home](https://email.fairfield.k12.ct.us/owa/redir.aspx?C=FETMAs0jM0G0YlCIKZGie6HZdU3je9AI71J5xs-B-R7aUHmjHyd1_xaNJTx5N61lqRTLPqzkQA0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2ffpsk5math.wikispaces.com%2fhome)

**Sharing**

Sharing is always a very exciting time for children. I wholeheartedly encourage the sharing of items from a special trip, something related to an area of learning, or a special talent the child possesses. I would prefer that toys be left at home. If in doubt, please feel free to discuss it with me.

**The object of sharing is to get to know each other and for children to learn to speak comfortably in front of others.** If they are sharing some experience it is a much richer dialogue than holding up an action figure or stuffed toy …even though they are cute!!! ☺

I also encourage active listening and therefore, the other children may ask questions of the person sharing.

**Word Work**

We will be focusing our attention on the letters in each child’s name at this early time of the year. We will be counting the letters and noticing who has a long name and whose name is shorter.



**Writer’s Workshop**

We will be also launching our Writer’s Workshop where we will be setting the stage for, again, class expectations and behaviors. We will be asking ourselves what do writers write about and trying our hand at some simple stories from our own life experiences!



8. Specials:

A Day-Music

B Day- P.E. (Wear sneakers)

C Day-Library Learning

D Day-Music

E Day-P.E. (Wear sneakers)

F Day-Art

9. Lunch/Milk/Water: As our lunch program is computerized, you may pay online if you wish or send in a check with your child’s name clearly marked on it and how you want the money to be allocated.

10. Homework will be discussed fully at Open House.

11. This blue folder is meant to be helpful in getting school work and notes to and from school. **Please keep this blue folder in your child’s backpack every day.**

12. **Going forward, I will be sending my Newsletters and notes via e-mail. Not only is it a great way to save paper, but you will receive messages in a timely fashion. Please let me know if this creates any hardship for you.**

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**Housekeeping**

1. Please send in **one** nutritious snack. Some suggestions: fruit, raw vegetables, raisins, or popcorn. **Please put snacks in a separate paper/plastic bag so the children will know what to eat at which time.** If a food item requires a spoon or fork please provide one, as I seem to run out quickly! ☺

2. Please mark all items brought to school with your child’s name.

3. If your child is absent please call the absentee line at 255-8415 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:55 a.m. A note must accompany your child upon his/her return to school.

4. The school day begins promptly at 8:45. Please ensure that your child is in school on time. Tardiness can put unnecessary pressure on children and disrupt their daily routine.

5. Permission for your child to leave school during the day must be in writing and parents can pick up their child in the office and sign out. In the event of an emergency, telephone permission will be accepted.

6. If your child will be going home in a manner other than his/her usual routine, **please send a note in on that day**. If you need to drop a note midday regarding dismissal please e-mail me as well because I do not always get to check my mailbox in the office during the day.

7. Mark your calendars! **Open House will be on September 19th at 7:00.**



**I look forward to a wonderful, exciting year working with you and your children. Welcome to First Grade!!**

**Kindest Regards,**

Abby Barzottini