**News From First Grade**

**Dear Parents,**

**Happy Fall! Wow! The weather is gorgeous at this moment… I can’t speak for ten minutes from now! With that in mind, please send your child to school with a sweatshirt or light jacket as we do go outside weather permitting.**

**Reader’s Workshop**

**In reading, we will be focusing on partner work. The children will be practicing stories to read aloud to their partner. The partners will be helping each other figure out tricky words by referring to our reading strategies and not just telling each other the tricky word. We will also be working on story retelling. That is a lot of work for first graders!**

**Writer’s Workshop**

**I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am by the children and their writing! They are so motivated and excited about sharing their stories either in their journals or in the more formal Writer’s Workshop. I love when I tell the children** **it is time for Writer’s Workshop and I hear, “Oh, I have such a great story about…!” Such excitemnt is exactly what we try to encourage. Right now, we are working on developing our stories to include more details as well as developing a clear beginning, middle and end. We are also focusing on editting our work to include spacing, spelling and punctuation.**

**Handwriting**

**This week, our focus is on lowercase g. Next week, we will be working on q. Your child is bringing home many letter formation worksheets at this point. We will be looking to see that the correct formation is used only AFTER We teach it for lowercase letters during not only writng practice, but during their independent writing. We have noticed many backwards letters and letters starting from the bottom. We can work together to help break some of these habits in writing that are simply not correct. You can have your child form letters in shaving cream, sand, salt or rice on a coockie sheet. You can have them form the letters in the air to engage their large muscles. These are just a few activites you can do before the children move to paper. Toward that end, the name of the printing programs we are using are Zaner-Bloser and the Verbal Path. The name of the website so you can print some paper if you wish is** [**www.zaner–bloser.com**](http://www.zaner–bloser.com)**. You then go to products then 2BFonts Online Plus…scroll to FREE VERSION and hit Grade 1. Have fun!!! This is a great resource to use for the children’s independent word wall homework.**

**Science**

**During the month of October, we will shift our focus to the seasonal changes in the world around us and learning about living and non-living things. This will include discussions about Fall and what living things need to live. We will be reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction literature to support these topics.**

**Social Studies**

# In Social Studies, we will begin talking about Our Community. We will start first with our class community and move on to discuss our school community. We are looking forward to having guest visitors from our school come in to share what their role in our School Community looks like each day.

**Math**

**In Math, we are beginning a new unit soon. We will be developing addition and subtraction strategies using dice and dominoes. The children will be learning games in which they match the dots on dominoes, count or add the dots on two halves of a domino, and write equations and inequality statements of amounts. We will be having so much fun!! Please remember that IXL is a wonderful resource to support our math program. Feel free to use it daily if you wish!**



**Reader’s Workshop**

****Please be on the look out for a sign up sheet to volunteer during our class’ reading block. You can help up by listening to young readers read to help promote fluency.**

**Box Top Baseball**

**Mill Hill has “leagues” that collect box tops (found on General Mills products), and used ink jet cartridges. Each class competes to hopefully win gift certificates to area stores. You can help us by sending these items to school when you have them. We are going to be picking our team name soon!**

**Housekeeping:**

* **Our Walkathon is coming!**
* **Please check (remove contents) and return blue folders to school each day. The children are so proud of all of the work they are doing at home!**
* **Please help your child to develop good homework habits now…it will definitely pay off in the future!**
* **Picture Day is Wednesday the 17th. Please return all forms on or before…I will hold onto the forms and give them to the photographer.**
* **Early release days in October are the 10th, 11th 18th and the 23rd.All children are dismissed at 1:40.**
* **Mark your calendars…we are having our Halloween Party on the 31th at 1:30. Followed by our school wide costume parade starting at 2:30.**
* **Just a friendly reminder…if your child is attending an after school activity, please send in a note each time they are going.**
* **Tuesday, October 9th is Pink Day!!!! Let’s wear as much pink as we can in support of this great fundraiser!**