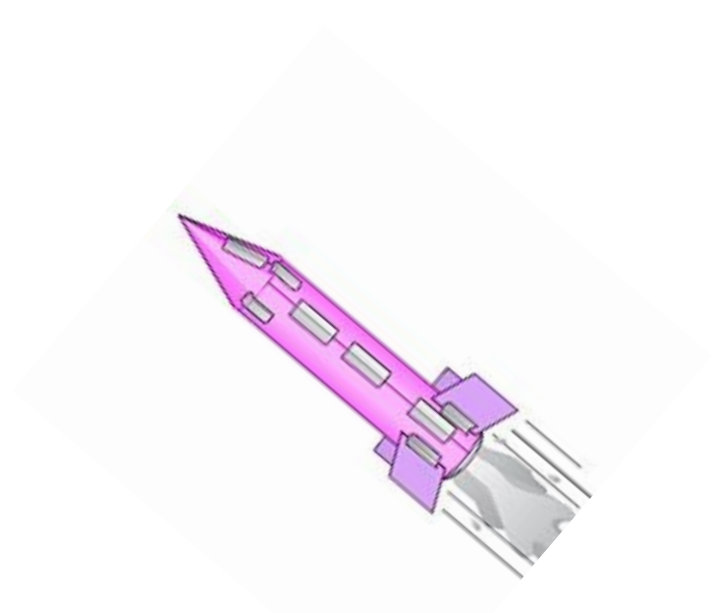


# First Grade

## NEWSLETTER

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Ms. Justice and Miss Thompson

February 24, 2020



### This month:

**English/Language Arts:** Unit five helped students think about the role technology plays in their lives. We explored the many ways technology solves problems through reading skills and strategies such as synthesizing, retelling key ideas and events in order, comparing and contrasting, and sorting. We read informational texts, fantasy, poetry, and realistic fiction. We even sang a song about going to the Moon!

**Math:** We compared, ordered, and described the length of objects directly and indirectly (using a referent item). We also measured the length of objects using nonstandard units such as paper clips, connecting cubes, craft sticks, sticky notes, and/or straws. We also continued to apply strategies to build fact fluency of addition and subtraction within 10 and adding three whole numbers. Strategies included, but were not limited to, the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction, acting it out, doubles and doubles plus one, count on to add and count back to subtract, number line, number bonds, Make 10 to add and subtract, and drawing pictures.

**Science:** We identified different family structures and how we care about and for our family members. We also learned how choosing healthy food keeps our muscles, bones, and teeth help us stay healthy and prevent illness.

**Social Studies:** We described geographical locations using pictures and photographs. We also compared and contrasted maps and globes, and identified continents and oceans on a map of the earth.

### Next month:

**English/Language Arts:** In Unit 6, we'll read stories about characters who make poor decisions and the lessons we learn from their mistakes. For example, from reading "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," students learn that if you lie, no one will ever believe you when you tell the truth. In addition to fables, the selections in this unit include pourquoi tales, animal fantasy, and realistic fiction. The suggested activities provide an opportunity for you and your child to consider the messages of different stories, and to think about how they apply to your lives.

**Math:** We will use the meaning of the equal sign to determine the missing number in equations and make equations true. We will apply strategies to build fact fluency of addition and subtraction within 10 and adding three whole numbers. Strategies including, but are not limited to, the inverse relationship of addition and subtraction, acting it out, doubles and doubles plus one, count on to add and count back to subtract, number line, number bonds, Make 10 to add and subtract, and drawing pictures will be used.

**Science:** We will identify similarities and differences in animal parents and their offspring. We will also observe images to identify similarities between plants and their seedlings, and connect to the understanding of similarities between animal parents and their offspring. We will use what we learn to identify ways parents help their young to grow and survive.

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# Parent Notes:

We hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy and ready to take on 2020! Please read below for some reminders and important suggestions from the First Grade Team. As always, **please do not hesitate to contact us via a note in your child's folder, phone or email. We want to build a partnership with you to make this a year filled with growth and enjoyment for you and your child. We look forward to continuing to build a relationship with you and your child, and communication with you is an important part of that!**

In the winter months especially, there is a potential for school delays, early dismissals, and closings due to weather-related emergencies. Please sign up for Alert MCPS in order to receive notifications on your phone as soon as county staff deem it necessary to announce a change in the school day. Here's the information:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx)

We are continuing to work hard to maximize our instructional time. We have a few suggestions and reminders to support a smooth transition from home to school each day.

Now that the weather has become colder and the school-wide HVAC unit has been switched to heat, it can get very warm in the classrooms, so layers are encouraged. However, it is important for items worn to school to cause as little distraction as possible. Please talk with your child about keeping their hair and clothing in the same way it was when they left the house in the morning. We are having several jewelry, hairstyle and wardrobe changes throughout the day, causing disruption to instruction.

We learned about dental health recently, which included keeping hands and other objects out of our mouths. However, many students continue to put their fingers and items from the classroom in their mouths. Many germs linger in schools, and putting fingers and items from home or the classroom in their mouth will cause a more significant spread of these germs. We will be using wipes on a regular basis to clean surface areas of the classroom, so please help us in our efforts by discussing the importance of keeping items out of their mouth with your child. Please also encourage your child to use the tissues (generously donated by you) to take care of stuffiness or any discomfort with their noses. To prevent illness, please encourage your child to use hand sanitizer after using tissues.

Please empty your child's backpack each day to review items in their folders and repack it with the items and materials necessary for school. Folders should return the very next school day and toys should be left at home.

If you are willing to donate items to the classroom, the following items are always needed and appreciated: 48-count crayons, tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and resealable baggies. Please talk with your child's teacher to discuss any needs specific to each classroom. We ALWAYS have a wish list!

## Upcoming Dates and Reminders:

- Friday, February 28th - Career Day and Early Release for Students
- Friday, March 27th - Early Release for Students/End of MP 3
- Monday, April 6th through Monday April 13th - No School
- Wednesday, April 15th - Report Card Distribution
- Tuesday, April 28th - No School