

First Grade NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Alexander, Ms. Clark, Mrs.
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Ms. Justice and Miss
Thompson

October 31, 2019



This month:

English/Language Arts: We asked questions for clarification and answered questions using key details with a variety of texts, including nonfiction, poetry, realistic fiction, and biography, both orally and in writing. We continued our routines for independent reading, collaborative conversations, and workstations as small group instruction continued.

Math: We added and subtracted by counting on, counting back, putting together, taking apart, adding to, and taking from using different strategies. We used multiple strategies to solve problems.

Science: We identified patterns in the sky during the day and at night, and how those patterns help determine seasons. In Health, we identified ways to use verbal and nonverbal cues to communicate feelings to others in a respectful manner, and the functions of and how to use medicine safely.

Social Studies: We learned about leaders and symbols associated with the U.S., and how to be strong citizens of our classroom (PAX leaders).

Next month:

English/Language Arts: We will visualize what is happening in fiction text to help us clarify what is happening the text. We will also be describing key details and characters, setting, and major events both orally and in writing. We will continue our routines for independent reading and writing, collaborative conversations, and workstations as small group instruction continues.

Math: We will organize and interpret data on pictographs and bar graphs. We will also describe numbers as representing amounts of tens and ones, and solve for the unknown in an equation by applying the meaning of the equal sign.

Science: We will identify ways animals send messages, and how observing these natural phenomena can help humans develop ways to communicate in other ways besides talking and writing. In Health, we will be identifying ways to take care of ourselves and keep our teeth healthy.

Social Studies: We will discuss and describe customs and traditions of families in our community.

Parent Notes:

We can't believe it is November already! We are continuing to work hard to get into a routine to maximize our instructional time. We have a few suggestions and reminders to support a smooth transition from home to school each day.

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. 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.

Many students have been putting items in their mouth. 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.

Many of you were so generous to donate tissues and hand sanitizer to our classrooms. Please encourage your child to use the tissues to take care of stuffiness or any discomfort with their noses. As stated above, it is important for us to prevent the spread of germs, so reinforcing our messages to use tissues instead of fingers and hands will help with this.

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. Many students have been bringing toys to school, another significant distraction from learning. This can lead to unfocused attention on teaching and learning in the classroom and further exacerbate misbehavior. Folders should return the very next school day and toys should be left at home.

If you haven't already, please send in school supplies with your child. This includes 5 hardcover composition books and a set of headphones for use with computers and listening workstations. If you are willing to donate items to the classroom, crayons, tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and resealable baggies are always needed and appreciated. Please talk with your child's teacher to discuss any needs specific to each classroom. We ALWAYS have a wish list!

Please do not hesitate to contact us via a note in your child's folder, phone or e-mail. 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 getting to know your child better than we already do, and communication with you is an important part of that!

Upcoming Dates and Reminders:

- November 4th - November Homework Calendar goes home
- November 5th - PTA Meeting
- November 8th - Early Release for Students/End of MP 1
- November 11th and 12th - Early Release for Students/Parent-Teacher Conferences

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- November 20th - Report Cards go home
 - November 27th - Early Release for Students
 - November 28th and 29th - No School
 - December 10th - Holiday Bazaar
 - December 23rd through 27th - No School
 - Thursday, January 2nd - First day back to school in 2020!
 - Monday, January 20th - No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Friday, January 24th - Early Release for Students/End of MP 2
 - Monday, January 27th - No School for Students
 - Tuesday, February 4th - Report Cards go home