

First Grade

NEWSLETTER

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

September 27, 2019



This month:

English/Language Arts: We built literacy and language routines for reading and writing. This included establishing and practicing workstation behaviors during Reader's Workshop, and building stamina independently for both reading and writing.

Math: We used counting strategies to develop number sense, including counting by tens and ones, and compared two digit numbers using the values of the digits.

Science: We observed the daytime sky, with a brief appearance by the Moon, and identified how we see the Moon from Earth using a model.

Social Studies: We discussed the importance of rules and how to be strong citizens of our classroom (PAX leaders).

Next month:

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

Math: We will add and subtract by counting on, counting back, putting together, taking apart, adding to, and taking from using different strategies.

Science: We will identify patterns in the sky during the day and at night, and how those patterns help determine seasons. In Health, we will be identifying 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 will learn about leaders and symbols associated with the U.S.

**Homework will begin this month. Look for the homework calendar in your child's backpack soon!

Parent Notes:

Thanks for a great start to the school year! We are working 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. We know classrooms can be cool, 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, 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 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:

- October 1st - PTA Meeting on Growth Mindset
- October 4th - Early Release Day for Students
- October 9th - No School
- October 10th - Interims go home
- October 11th - Individual Student Portraits
- October 14th - Open House (more info. to come)
- October 17th - Curriculum Night
- October 31st - Fall Festival (for students during the school day)
- November 5th - PTA Meeting
- November 8th - Early Release for Students/End of MP 1

-
- November 11th and 12th - Parent-Teacher Conferences (early release)
 - 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