

FIRST GRADE NEWSLETTER

Ms. Balarezo, Ms. Kreiger, Ms. Maisonet, Ms. Modica, Ms. Taylor

October 2018



READING

This month, we are focusing on building good habits as readers. Children are practicing strategies to become lifelong readers, tackling hard words, and they're learning how to work in partnerships. Students have started "book shopping" for their "just right" books. Children are also practicing sight words in order to build reading fluency. The best way to support your child in reading is to read at home as much as possible. We encourage you to have your child read his/her "just right" books each night. Encourage your child to practice the reading strategies learned in school. This consistency will help your child grow as good readers.

Prompt for solving tricky words:

- Does it make sense?
- Does it sound right?
- Does it look right?

WRITING

To begin the year, we launched our Small Moments unit, which is the first Unit of Study for the Primary Writing series. In this unit, your child will learn to incorporate detail, dialogue, and internal thinking into their writing pieces. Your child will be encouraged to write many Small Moment stories and move with independence throughout the writing process: choosing an idea, planning their writing by sketching stories across the pages of a booklet, storytelling repeatedly until the story feels just right, and revising to bring more detail and life to their stories. One goal throughout the unit is to help your child become a resourceful word solver. Our expectation in the beginning of the year is that your child can write using initial and first consonant sounds, including some of the internal parts of words and word endings. Instruction in spelling will be woven throughout our writing workshop. We will be teaching your child to use spelling patterns to efficiently spell new words. Our ultimate goal is for your child to write for longer periods of time and with greater detail. Encourage your child to talk about their Small Moment piece and write one together!

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Prompt for writing a story:

- Think of an idea
 - A thing that happened to you
 - A thing you do
- Plan
 - Touch and tell
 - Then, sketch across the pages
- Write
- Revise
 - Who?
 - What?
 - Where?
 - When?
 - How?

MATH

First grade is starting the year with a mathematics unit called *Building Numbers and Solving Story Problems* from the *Investigations Curriculum*. This unit is an introduction to mathematical ideas such as counting and comparing quantities, and addition and subtraction. Math activities might include working on a problem, playing a game we learned in class, collecting information for a data project, or solving a story problem. They are asked to share their reasoning and solutions. It is important that children solve math problems accurately in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain his or her math thinking to you.

"Math Talk: Prompts:

- What do you need to find out?
- How are you solving this problem?
- How did you get this answer?
- Why does your answer make sense?

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- Can you explain that in a different way?

SOCIAL STUDIES

To begin the year, the students learn about different types of families and communities. They learn how families can look, feel and be different. They study different types of family members, and recognize similarities and differences between families. As we study this topic, we read different books about families and students share values and traditions in their own personal families.

Soon, we will be launching our "My Family and Other Families, Now and Long Ago" unit for Social Studies. Students examine families and develop an awareness of cultural diversity within the American culture. Family history provides the basis for examining sources of information and organizing that information.

SEL (SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING)

As a whole school, we are emphasizing social emotional learning in our classrooms. Students will participate and collaborate with other classes, as well as outside resources. These partnerships will diversify their experiences while providing concrete examples of ways to be accepting, trustworthy and compassionate members within our school and the community.

Book of the Month: But It's Not My Fault By: Julia Cook

Unit 1-Compassion

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Giving

Compassion has two components: the first is empathy, which means putting yourself in someone else's shoes and trying to feel what that person feels, and the second is action, which means helping someone in need and performing acts of kindness without expecting anything in return. Compassion is when one understands how another person feels and takes action to alleviate that person's suffering. Students apply their empathy and communication skills to support one another through compassionate action. Humans are wired for connection and compassion. The activities help students make choices that benefit their minds, hearts, bodies, and relationships. (www.jesselewischooselove.org).

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 5 - Learn with Your Child (9:30-10:00am)

October 8 - Columbus Day (school closed)

October 19- PTA Halloween Bake sale

October 19- Publishing Party (9:30-10:00am)

October 25- Picture Day

October 25- Family SEL event (3:00-4:00)

October 26- Falloween (5:30pm)

October 31- Halloween