

First Grade News and Announcements

Parent Questionnaire

Thanks to all the parents who have filled out the Parent Questionnaire and returned it already. This information helps me gain a better understanding of who your child is as a learner. If you haven't had a chance to fill out the questionnaire, please do so and return it to school as soon as you can. If you need an extra copy, please let me know and I will send another copy home in your child's blue folder. Thank you!

Specials Schedule

Below is our class's schedule for specials. Please send sneakers (shoes to move safely and comfortably in) on gym and music days. New school clothes are probably best worn on non-art days to be safe. Thanks for your help!

Mondays- gym

Tuesdays- art

Thursdays- gym, library/computers

Fridays- music

Change of Clothes

Please send in a spare change of clothes with your child. The clothing will be kept in your child's cubby all year. As the weather changes from warm to cool, dry to wet and muddy, you never know when a change of socks, pants, shorts, shirt, or even underwear may come in handy. Your child may also wish to keep a pair of sneakers in their cubby to change into on gym days.

Star of the Week

To get to know each of our classmates and teachers on a more personal level, we will celebrate each member of our class as a Star of the Week. Here's how it works:

- The Friday before your child's week to be our Star, s/he will come home with a special tote bag. Please fill the tote bag with photos of family and friends, a special stuffed animal friend, things that your child has made, favorite books, special things from nature, and/or items

representing activities your child enjoys. **Please do not send in toys, as toys are not allowed in school.**

- During your child's Star week, you are cordially invited to come and visit our classroom. Please contact me to set up a time that will work. While you are here, you may bring a special snack that your Star enjoys and we would love for you to share some of the special things that makes your child a Star! If you are not able to visit our class, you may still send in a snack or let me know so that we can work out something special for your child. **Please note that if you will be visiting our classroom, you must have a CORI form signed and returned to the office. Please see Toni for forms.**



Animal Visits

I have been asked before whether pets are able to visit our classroom with parents during Star of the Week. After talking to Bob, I found out that as long as parents are informed and do not have any problem with animals visiting, it is okay for supervised visits for well-behaved animals (pets). Also, relating to our science unit *The World Around Us*, we may have some small creatures in secure terrariums in our classroom to observe and study. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would not like any or all animals to visit our classroom. If I do not hear anything from you by **Friday, September 14th**, I will assume that you give permission for your child to be present when an occasional pet or science subject visits the first grade. Thank you for your support with this.

Book Orders

We will be sending home Scholastic book orders with the first graders each month. Please consider purchasing books for your child. This is a great way to get quality books at low prices, while helping your child to continue developing a love of reading. Another bonus is that when your child buys books from Scholastic, it allows us to get books to add to our classroom library. Please send in a check and the order slip (or order online!) by the date stamped at the top of each book order. Thanks so much for your consideration.

Literacy

The class has begun our literacy work with the challenge of setting up the classroom library. We took a tour of the school library and have set up fiction and nonfiction shelves with containers of books including science references, song books and instruments, and books about animals. We also have a shelf of read alouds where students may browse books we have read together during storytime.

Science

As our study of *The World Around Us* has begun, the first graders have been given a nature journal in which to keep entries of their experiences with nature. We have had chances to write about nature both inside and outside. Nature inside the classroom has included a gray tree frog and unknown butterfly/moth chrysalis that we are still observing to see if or when it will hatch. Hazel brought in a leaf with galls and a feather to share. Rachel's mom brought in a baby garter snake and a walking stick for the class to study. Outside, the students discovered a house spider and web, cricket, various mosses, weeds, and insects. After writing and drawing in their nature journals, the first graders had the opportunity to share their entries with the class.

Wish List

We are looking for bird feeders and/or bird houses with suction cups that we can attach to our classroom windows to observe our feathered friends. If you have one that you would be willing to donate, that would be great. We could use some bird seed as well. Thanks!

Thank you

Your support is greatly appreciated as we – parents, teachers, and students – work as a team to create a safe, engaging, positive learning environment for first grade this year. Please feel free to contact me (see the top of this page) if you ever have a question or concern. My goal is to work together and keep you informed of your child's progress. Thank you for your support. -Kate

