



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

Welcome! Welcome! I am so excited to have your student in my classroom this year! So far, we have 27 students in our class. Thanks to your quick responses, I have gathered all of our **class contact information**. It was sent to your email with this document. Please keep it in a safe place to reference for playdates, birthday invitations, etc.

Check to see if your child knows what to do on their way home from school. If he/she is meeting a sibling or friend, make sure they have a designated meeting spot (ie: flagpole, classroom). If he/she gets picked up, I recommend you have him/her wait at the flagpole (or another designated spot) until they see your car. In my opinion, everything is a bit easier when first graders know where they are expected to go.

I know that most of you are still in possession of your **"All About Me" posters**. If you could get those filled out and returned as soon as possible, that would be marvelous. I'll store them at school until your child has a turn being our class student of the week. We'll use one every week to focus on a student. A student's week may or may not coincide with his/her birthday.

Don't forget!! **First Grade can be a big adjustment** due to the longer days. Make sure your child sleeps well and eats well before coming to school each day to help us get used to the longer first grade schedule. We are scheduled to have lunch at 11:15am each day. If you can fill them up with a large breakfast, it will help them last until lunch.

School Spirit Days are on Friday! Wear school colors or school shirts. If you didn't already know, our school colors are purple, green and gray. Go sharks!

Please always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. ☺

Dates to Remember

8/28	Hearing Screening - Please have your child in attendance!
9/4	Labor Day - No School
9/6	Fall Picture Day
9/13	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind Vision Screening - Please have your child in attendance!

Reading

We do a lot of reading in first grade (shared reading, guided reading, read-alouds, and more). I'll spend the next couple of weeks testing your child's reading level using the Phonics Word Reading Survey and the DRA. We will be reading poems and big books together. Last week, we talked about looking at pictures and using them to tell the story. Pictures are a useful tool when decoding words and understanding a story while reading. This week, we'll start discussing how we should point to every word (1:1 matching) as we read. We'll take time to notice sentence structure (capitals, spaces, ending punctuation), recognize rhyming words, and show comprehension. We will introduce fiction and nonfiction texts. We want to be able to retell important details from each.

This week, we also begin practicing a few heart words. Heart words are words that we need to know "by heart" because they don't follow regular decoding patterns/rules. We'll practice 4-6 heart words each week, but you can find the full list in your child's homework folder. Plus, it's always would be helpful if your child has already mastered the Kindergarten heart words listed below.

Heart Words: does not school what

Kindergarten Heart Words:

this	is	my	look	play	you
the	me	she	with	for	I
and	do	see	his	to	a

Word Work/Phonics

We're beginning with a review of some Kindergarten basics. This will allow us to learn routines using knowledge we already have. We'll review the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. Then, we practice reading and writing words with these sounds. That often requires a blending skill that students may need help with. As a student comes to an unknown word (ie: pet), he/she may need to say each sound before blending and reading the word (ie: "/p/, /e/, /t/, pet").

Writing

We will be doing short mini-lessons on handwriting at the beginning of our writing time. Last week, we started with the easiest letters (mostly straight lines) - Ll and Tt. This week, we'll finish practicing letters with straight lines and move on to practicing letters with slanted lines - Ii, Xx. Below are some prompts to help as you practice these letters at home. There is a formation guide in the homework folder as well. Don't forget - THERE ARE NO LETTERS THAT START AT THE BOTTOM!!

L - down, across

l - dow . . n

T - down, across

t - dow . . n, across

I - down, across, across

i - down, dot

X - slant down, slant across

x - slant down, slant across

If time allows, we'll also be jumping into our writing workshop right away. We'll focus this week on learning about our writing supplies/routines and getting ideas to write about.

Math

We are working on our number sense. We'll be looking closely at numbers in order to count accurately, recognizing numbers in a 5 and 10 frame (see below), and ordering numbers from smallest to greatest. These number frames help students begin to see numbers much more quickly. They also develop an understanding of parts in numbers. For example, a 7 is made up of a row of 5 and 2 more. Building this number sense is vital to all other math skills.

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