



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

Wow! I can't believe how quickly things are already moving along! However, there is always lots of information to review as the school year begins. **Please read through each newsletter carefully and let me know if you have any questions.**

I know that all 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.

The Student Council will be selling **Otter Pops** during lunch recess this week (for as long as supplies last). They cost 25¢ each for a random flavor. If you want to pick the flavor, it will cost 50¢. If you want your child to purchase one, please send them money to school with your child. He/She will be responsible for taking it outside during lunch recess. I would encourage you to only send enough money for one Otter Pop each day (if you do any at all) because we don't want children to fill up on Otter Pops instead of lunch.

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.

This week, you can access our **September Book Order** pages. Please go online to order. Go to <https://orders.scholastic.com/GVXR4>. This will connect you to our class ordering page. If you already have a Scholastic Books Account, you may need to login and use our class code (GVXR4) to ensure your order is sent to me. Please have your order completed by Friday, September 1st. You can view the digital flyers at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/k1>.

Your child had his/her first library time last Wednesday. Please help your child watch over their library book while it's at home. It should be kept in a safe place where younger siblings or pets can't get to it (backpacks work). If damage does accidentally happen to the book, do not try to repair it yourself. Send it back to the library and Mrs. Christensen will fix it at school. **Your child will need to bring back their library book every Wednesday** in order to be able to check out a new book.

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!
9/1	Book Orders Due
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

I was able to test everyone's letter/sound knowledge last week. This week, I will continue testing students with the Phonics Word Reading Survey and the DRA to discover their instructional reading level for guided reading.

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about things that happen at school. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how we can use the words and illustrations to visualize or create pictures in our

minds. This is one strategy that helps us understand the text. We'll also talk about using key details to retell what happens in a story.

I got a bit mixed up with heart words last week. We will actually be starting those THIS WEEK. 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 will be focusing on the short a sound. However, there will be some ongoing review of sight words and blending. Plus, we will introduce syllables (parts of words) and phoneme segmentation (separating sounds in words). There are 6 different syllable types. Learning the 6 syllable types is key to reading more accurately and fluently. We will be learning about closed syllable words. Closed syllables have 1 vowel letter followed by 1 or more consonants and the vowel sound is short (ie: cat, fed, rip, etc.).

Writing

We are doing short mini-lessons on handwriting at the beginning of our writing time. This week we will move on to practicing letters with slanted lines - Vv and Ww. Then, we'll start working on letters with slanted and straight lines - Zz. Below are some prompts to help as you practice these letters at home. There is a formation guide on our class website as well. Don't forget - THERE ARE NO LETTERS THAT START AT THE BOTTOM!!

V - slant down, slant up

v - slant down, slant up

W - slant down, slant up, slant down, slant up

w - slant down, slant up, slant down, slant up

Z - across, slant down across

z - across, slant down, across

During Writer's Workshop, we'll keep working on getting ideas to write about. Some students struggle when thinking of writing ideas. At home, try to think of 2-3 ideas that your child could write about at school. When we do write, we need to make sure we have complete sentences. A sentence is a group of words that tells a whole idea. It should start with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. You could have your child write a sentence each day about their favorite activity. Make sure it has a complete thought, a capital letter, and ending punctuation.

Math

We're building a great understanding of numbers (number sense). This week, we'll practice finding one more/less than a given number. Plus, we'll be learning about which numbers are greater than, less than or equal to others. You can have your child compare numbers with the correct symbols (>, <, =).