



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

We have a **Minimal Day** right before Christmas Break! School will start at the normal time and lunch will be provided. It will be picked up and taken home to eat. *Please let me know if your child will need a school lunch that day.* Students will be dismissed at 11:30am. Please plan accordingly!

The **Christmas Sing Program** is coming up soon. Please keep a couple things in mind as you attend this event. The office will be opening up the back of the school for parking (once all students have finished their lunch recesses). Seats will fill up quickly, so you may want to be early. Please try to stay for the entire program even if you only have 1 student to watch. I promise you will be entertained by every grade level. I don't know when first grade (or any other grade) will be performing. It will be a nice surprise for all of us. Please monitor any younger siblings that may be attending with you.

As we prepare to wrap up the rest of school before Christmas Vacation, I just have a simple request. **If your child will be missing school before the break, please let me know.** I will have gifts (one to your student from me and another from your student to you) to send home on 12/21. If your child will not be in attendance, I need to know so that I can send the gifts home earlier.

If you still have an "All About Me" poster, please return it as soon as possible. If you need a new one, just let me know.

Take Home Readers need to be returned on **Tuesday!** Make sure they are signed off or the volunteers will not change the books. Be sure to sign the correct bag number!

Library Books need to be returned on **Wednesday!!**

School Spirit Days are on **Friday!** Wear school colors or school shirts.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, let me know.

Dates to Remember

12/12	Acadience Reading Testing - Please have your child in attendance!
12/13	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
12/19	Class Christmas Party 12:30-1:30pm
12/20	Christmas Sing-In for Parents 12:45pm
12/21	Minimal Day - School dismissed at 11:30am
12/22	Teacher Work Day - No School
12/25-1/5	Christmas Break - No School
1/22	Acadience Math Testing - Please have your child in attendance!

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (floss rule, qu & final x) to reading a decodable text. If students have already mastered that skill, they may receive a leveled book to read. Also, I know it's easy to get distracted this time of year, but please **READ** with your child. Take Home Books is an easy option, but anything will do. This is vital to their growth in reading! Help your child by reading with them as often as possible.

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about what life was like long ago. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers make and confirm predictions. We make predictions about what will come next to help us better connect and pay attention to what we are reading. Then, we continue reading to find out whether our predictions were correct. We'll also talk about recognizing cause and effect in a story. A cause is what makes something happen in a story. An effect is the event that happens. To find cause and effect, we'll ask ourselves, "What happened? Why did it happen?"

Heart Words: boy girl how old people

Word Work/Phonics

We will be reviewing a variety of consonant digraphs (ch, sh, th, wh). Each consonant digraph has 1 sound spelled with 2 consonants side by side. We'll review digraphs while still practicing closed syllable words. Remember, closed syllables have 1 vowel letter followed by 1 or more consonants and the vowel sound is short (ie: chest, bench, shin, dash, thump, path, when, etc.).

Writing

We started a group project about Christmas traditions at the end of last week. So, we'll continue working on that a little bit more. Our goal is to create short Adobe Spark videos about our Christmas traditions. I plan to share those links with you when students finish.

Otherwise, we will learn about "is" and "are" as present-tense verbs. The verb "is" is used when telling about one noun in the sentence. The verb "are" is used when telling about more than one noun in the sentence. For example, "He *is* in the tree. They *are* on the ground."

Math

We will continue working on the concept of equality. First graders often see "equal" as a way to get the answer to a problem. In reality, it is more of a balancing symbol. We will be comparing equations to decide if they are true or false. For example, $3+4=7-0$ would be true and $2+4=3+2$ would be false. We want to think of the equal sign as meaning that things are the same ($3+4$ "is the same as" $7-0$). This concept builds an algebraic understanding of the equal sign that will be helpful in more complicated mathematics down the road. Try creating some equations at home and see if your child can tell whether they are true or false. You can even have them explain their reasoning/thinking.

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on -5. In order to meet our goal of doing a complete page in 5 minutes, we are timing each row for a minute at a time. Usually, we can finish a row in a minute. I know that the more we do it the better we get. Watch for these papers to come home with your student. Feel free to correct any wrong answers or simply finish the problems if necessary.