



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

Please take a moment to fill out my **Stakeholder Input (Parent Survey)**. This is part of my yearly teacher evaluation. All responses are anonymous. The link is <https://forms.gle/mDoTCuxaY7m2HsrK7>. This survey needs to be completed by **Friday, December 8th**. Thank you!!

Your child should be bringing home a **letter** for you by the end of this week. They really don't know what it is, but I'll give you the heads-up. Your child wrote a letter to Santa. Basically, I'm just delivering it. ☺ I hope you enjoy. It might be a fun idea to write back and leave it on Christmas Eve.

We have a **Minimal Day** coming up soon! School will start at the normal time and lunch will be provided. However, 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. 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.

As the holiday season approaches, many parents like to get gifts for their child's teacher. Of course, this is definitely not required. Personally, I'd rather that you got a gift for our classroom instead of just a gift for me. Lotions, candles, and sweets are nice. However, I'd love it even more if I got things for our classroom. You'd be surprised how happy it makes me to get wipes, tissues, glue sticks or books. I especially love gift cards that allow me to purchase the exact books or materials we need in our classroom. ☺ Please don't feel pressured to get me a gift. I know money can be tight. However, if you're planning to get a gift, please make it one for our classroom instead of just one for me.

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 **Monday!!** Due to a scheduling conflict, we need to adjust days this week. I hope this doesn't mess you up too much!!

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

12/6	Santa Suits Due
12/8	Fun Friday: Christmas Festive Day! Stakeholder Input (Parent Survey) Due
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 1:00pm
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 (digraphs: th, wh, ck) to reading a decodable text. If students have already mastered that skill, they may receive a leveled book to read. 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 folktales. Folktales are stories that have been passed on over time. They are often very familiar to us. 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: any from happy once where

Word Work/Phonics

We will be introducing the floss rule as well as working with *qu*, and final *x*. Students will identify, read and write words that include these word patterns (in isolation and in passages). The floss rule is when we recognize that the letters *f*, *l*, *s*, and *z* are doubled at the end of word after a short vowel (ie: puff, yell, miss, buzz). The doubled consonant is produced as one sound. With *qu*, we recognize that *q* is rarely written without *u*. There are two sounds for *qu*: /k/ & /w/. With final *x* pattern words, we recognize that *x* is made from two sounds: /k/ & /s/. However, those two sounds are only represented by a single letter. We'll learn these new skills 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: quick, box, grill, jazz, puff, etc.).

Writing

During Writer's Workshop, we will learn about past- and future-tense verbs. Verbs are words that show action. A past-tense verb tells about an action that has already happened. Many past-tense verbs end in -ed (ie: danced). A future-tense verb tells about an action that is going to happen. Adding "will" before the verb shows that something will happen in the future (ie: will dance).

Plus, we have some more holiday writing this week. We'll begin a group project related to our various holiday traditions.

Math

We'll be wrapping up our subtraction unit this week. We've made a lot of progress! Keep practicing addition and subtraction problems at home when you can. Next, we'll begin 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.