



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

First Grade Parents & Pastries is Friday!! Plan to enjoy a treat and read with your child from 8:15-8:45am. If no one is available to read with your child, please let me know so that I can plan accordingly. Remember that there is very limited room when all the students and their parents come. Please try to avoid bringing siblings if at all possible. At the very least, please plan to leave any strollers in the hallway.

In February, the book for **Shark Readers** is Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery by David Adler. If you haven't already, you'll want to get started reading now so that you can finish the book in time.

This week, you can access our **February Book Order** pages. Please go online to order. Go to <https://orders.scholastic.com/GVXR4>. This will connect you to our class ordering page. Please have your order completed by **Thursday, February 8th**. You can view the digital flyers at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/grade1>.

Please do not plan on sending valentines with children's names written on them. Your child can fill in their name under "from," but please leave the "to" section empty. We pass out valentines very quickly and reading each name would slow us down tremendously. You are welcome to have valentines for boys vs. girls, but don't individually label who they are for. We have 29 students at the moment - 12 girls & 17 boys. Please follow this request to make out Valentine's Day much smoother! **Also, your child will NOT need to make/bring a Valentine's box/bag.** We will be making something to hold Valentine's at our class party.

Don't forget to mail off your **Flat Stanley** as soon as you can! Hopefully, you can send it to someone outside of Utah. Whenever it comes back, simply send it to school for all of us to enjoy.

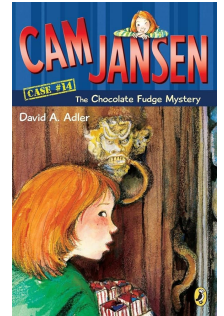
If you still have an **"All About Me"** poster, please return it as soon as possible.

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

2/8	Book Orders Due
2/9	Teacher Work Day - No School
2/14	Class Valentine's Party 1:15-2:00pm Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
2/19	President's Day - No School
2/26-3/1	PTA Safety Week
2/26	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am PTA Healthy Minds Night
2/27	PTA Family Skate Night 5-8:30pm

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (long o, silent e) to reading a decodable text. If students have already mastered that skill, they may receive a leveled book to read.

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about ways that insects are alike and different. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers create pictures in their minds of what is happening when they read. This is called visualizing. We'll also identify different character points of view while we read. Point of view is the way that a story character thinks or feels. Understanding the characters' point of view can help us follow the story better.

Concentrating on print when we read can be difficult at times. If your child is struggling with certain words, encourage them to "try that again" or ask if it "looks right," "sounds right," or "makes sense." These phrases encourage children to solve those problems with print on their own. If they are still unsure, you can tell the word, but make sure that they try something first.

Heart Words: caught flew know laugh listen were

Word Work/Phonics

We will be continue learning about the long vowel silent-e syllable word pattern with long u words (ie: dude, fume, use, flute, rule, etc.). Long vowel silent-e words have a single vowel, a single consonant, an e at the end, and the vowel sound is long. Until recently, we've mainly focused on closed syllable words with short vowel sounds. It might be tricky to change our thinking from short vowels to long vowels.

Writing

We'll spend a lot of time talking about how sentences need to start with a capital and end with punctuation (usually periods). This is a very tricky concept for many first graders. We'll work on it many times throughout the year. I describe a sentence as "Who? Did What?" I talk about how a sentence should make sense by itself. I even mention how we talk and pause in sentences. Hopefully, one of these ways will click with your child.

Otherwise, we will learn about "see" and "saw." These are two forms of the same verb. We use the present-tense ("see") to tell about what we're looking at now. We also use it to tell what several people are looking at. When we talk about one other person who is looking at something, we add an "s" and use "sees." We use "saw" instead of "see" when we talk about looking at something in the past. For example, "I see the tree. He sees the bird. They saw a dog yesterday."

Math

We're wrapping up our work with missing addends. Keep practicing at home with your child. This is one of the trickiest math skills that we cover in first grade.

Otherwise, we're coming to the end of our addition and subtraction unit. That's been our focus since almost the beginning of the school year. We've learned a variety of strategies to solve problems and shown our work on story problems. We've even learned how addition and subtraction work together (fact families, missing addends). We'll spend some time working with larger numbers this week. Then, we'll be ready to move on to other math concepts. We should be able to add and subtract accurately within 20 and solve facts fluently within 10. If your child is quick with smaller facts, try challenging them with larger numbers.

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on +8. 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.