



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

This week, you can access our **January 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 **Friday, January 12th**. You can view the digital flyers at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/grade1>.

Please remember to send your child **dressed warm** each morning. Most likely, students will have outside recess. We want them to be prepared with jackets, gloves, and other warm items.

In January, the book for **Shark Readers** is **Miss Daisy is Crazy** by Dan Gutman. If you haven't already, you'll want to get started reading now so that you can finish the book in time.

With the New Year, I know sometimes schedules change. If you need to **volunteer** on a different day or time, please let me know. If you are suddenly available to come and volunteer, we'd love to have you. Please let me know if anything needs to change. Otherwise, I look forward to having you help our class.

The **100th Day of School** is quickly approaching. We will be celebrating this day at school. At home, please help your child make a collection of 100 things. These can be drawn, glued, bagged - whatever works! Just make sure it has 100 things. You could have 100 stickers, 100 stamps, 100 toothpicks, 100 tally marks, etc. The possibilities are endless! Encourage your child to arrange these items in groups (5s or 10s) to make it easier to count. We will be placing these in the hallway. As such, it would be best not to have food or money items. It becomes too tempting for other students to take these from the hallway. Please have the collections at school on or before **Wednesday, January 24th**. That will give me time to display them before the 100th Day of School.

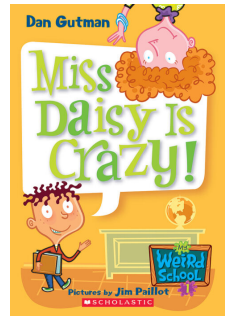
If you still have an **"All About Me"** poster, please return it as soon as possible. If you need a new one, just let me know.

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

1/10	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
1/12	Fun Friday Book Orders Due
1/15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
1/22	Acadience Math Testing - Please have your child in attendance!
1/24	100 th Day Collections Due
1/29	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am
1/30	100 th Day of School

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (digraph review: ch, sh, th, wh) to reading a decodable text. If students have already mastered that skill, they may receive a

leveled book to read. Keep building your student's fluency as they read. Most students in class can now read without pointing. Let them take out their fingers and have their eyes do the work. Practice repeating certain phrases to make them sound like talking. Repeat lines as needed to make them become smooth.

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about the food we eat and where it comes from. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers sometimes need to reread part of a story to make sure they understood it. We'll also talk about retelling what happened in a story in the correct sequence (ie: first, next, then, last).

Heart Words: after buy done every soon work

Word Work/Phonics

We will begin learning about the long a silent-e word pattern (ie: cave, date, lake, shape, maze, etc.). This is a silent-e syllable pattern. Long vowel silent-e words have a single vowel, a single consonant, an e at the end, and the vowel sound is long. Up to now, all our words have 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 will start the week with a quick activity about New Year's Resolutions. ☺

Then, we'll spend time reviewing some writing conventions. I have many students that still struggle to remember to put spaces between every word. That will be a major focus this week!!

Plus, we will learn about contractions with the word "not". A contraction is a form or two words put together to form one word. An apostrophe takes the place of any letters that are removed. Have your child practice creating/writing and reading words as contractions. Give him/her two words (ie: are not) and have him/her create the contraction (ie: aren't). This can be a tricky skill. At the very least, see if your child can identify the two words that make a contraction.

Math

We'll begin learning about the connection between addition and subtraction facts. We want to use what we know about adding to help us solve subtraction equations (and vice versa). For example, knowing that $5+1=6$ can help us solve $6-1=?$. When we flip the problem around, that's basically creating a fact family. A fact family has 2 addition facts and 2 subtraction facts all made with the same numbers. For instance, the numbers 2, 4, & 6 can make two addition facts ($2+4=6$ or $4+2=6$) and two subtraction facts ($6-2=4$ or $6-4=2$). Knowing these "flip flops" and being able to move numbers around in addition and subtraction equations is an important skill for first grade. It means students have a deeper understanding of how addition and subtraction work together. We want to be able to turn an addition fact into a subtraction fact. Practice creating fact families by changing some addition equations into subtraction equations (and vice versa).

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on +6. 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.