



## First Grade Newsletter Miss Earle's Class



### Note From Miss Earle

First Grade will be going on a field trip to Tracy Aviary!!! It will be on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Chaperones were picked on a "first come, first served" basis. Background Checks are required for all chaperones and must be done at the district office. It costs \$35, but is supposed to last a lifetime. All background checks must be completed at least one month before the field trip.

The "Buy One, Get One" Book Fair is set up in the library this week. Students will only have a chance to shop during their class library times. The book fair will not be open before or after school. If your child is planning to spend money there, you can send it to school on Wednesday. Please put it in a bag/envelope with your child's name on it. Our library time is 1:35-2:05pm. You are welcome to join us during that time.

Spring Break is next week! Can you believe it? I know you'll have tons of fun with your students back at home. I just wanted to put in my two cents about homework during Spring Break. I know you probably won't be as consistent. I totally understand. However, I would encourage you to at least have your child do some reading or writing during the break. In fact, they could read about something before you go there OR they could write about all the fun things you do (like a journal). These are simple ideas to keep the momentum going on your child's success at school.

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!

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

3/25	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am
3/25-3/29	BOGO Book Fair in the Library
4/1-4/5	Spring Break - No School
4/5	Yearbook Orders Due
4/22	PTA Spirit Night at Handel's in Saratoga Springs 12-10pm
4/24	Acadience Math Testing
5/7	Field Trip to Tracy Aviary
5/8	Acadience Reading Testing

### Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (phonogram review) 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 different structures and how they were built. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers make ask and answer questions while they read. We'll also retell what happened by identifying cause and effect. A cause is how or why something happens. An effect is what happens.

We have practiced almost all of our First Grade Heart Words. These are words that don't follow typical spelling/phonics patterns. So, we need to know them "by heart". Take some time to

review the whole list in your child's homework folder. Practice any that your child may struggle to remember. The more practice the better! Sometimes, it can take up to 70 or more exposures to a word before it is really known! So, practice, practice, practice!

*Heart Words:*        build    fall    know    money    forward    above

### Word Work/Phonics

We will learn about some predictable vowel teams this week. A vowel team has 2 or 3 letters side by side that are pronounced as 1 vowel sound. This week, we'll learn about ee, igh, oa and oe (ie: deep, keep, high, tight, boat, moan, Joe, goes, etc.).

### Writing

We will start learning about how to write opinions this week. In first grade, we keep this pretty simple. However, we want to have a topic, give clear reasons (at least 2-3), and finish with a closing sentence. We'll practice writing opinions with clear reasons on a few different topics. First graders should give quality reasons instead of the standard: "I like it." We'll work toward having reasons that can convince others to change their minds.

Otherwise, we will learn about prepositions and prepositional phrases. A preposition connects a noun or pronoun to another part of a sentence. A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun. For example, "The brown mole is IN the ground." The word "in" connects "the brown mole" to the phrase telling where it is ("the ground").

### Math

We spent most of last week reviewing our place value knowledge and 100s chart skills. Hopefully, we will be able to build upon that ability this week. There are a few students who would benefit from more time reviewing 1 more, 1 less, 10 more and 10 less than a given number. We mostly have it, but it would be a good homework review activity.

We will be working on adding with two-digit numbers. In particular this week, we want to be able to add and subtract multiples of ten (10, 20, 30, 40, etc.). For example,  $46 + 30$  or  $75 - 20$ . One of the best tools to use when solving these types of problems is our 100s chart because we can move up and down the columns to get 10 more/less. When working with multiples of ten, it means moving multiple rows of ten. Have your student practice adding and subtracting tens. Encourage them to use the 100s chart if they get stuck.

We have finished practicing math facts in class for this school year. I'll be giving some assessments in the coming weeks to check on accuracy within 20 and fluency within 10. From what I've seen, most students are fairly good at getting correct answers. However, some could use more fluency/speed. I encourage you to keep practicing these skills/facts. It creates a strong foundation for other mathematical skills.