



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

Please make sure that your first grader comes to school dressed for the weather! More often than not, we will be having students lined up outside before school and having outside recess after lunch. I know the weather just started to change on us. Be sure they have the coat and accessories they need every day. I know it seems like a silly request, but it is so very important.

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 can be 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 Tuesday! This is not our normal day, but Mrs. Christensen will be gone on Wednesday. So, she's combining classes on Tuesday.

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

11/13	PTA Healthy Minds Night 7pm
11/21	Class Thanksgiving Party 12:30-1:30pm
11/22-24	Thanksgiving Break - No School
11/27	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am
12/1	Book Orders Due
12/19	Class Christmas Party 12:30-1:30pm
12/20	Christmas Sing-In for Parents 1:00pm
12/21	Minimal Day
12/22	Teacher Work Day - No School
12/25-1/5	Christmas Break - No School

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (3 letter blends) 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 readers are an easy option, but anything will do. This is vital to their growth in reading!

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about time and how we measure it. 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 how to retell a fiction story by telling about what happens during the beginning, the middle, and the end.

Heart Words: away now some today way why

Word Work/Phonics

We will be introducing consonant digraphs (ch & sh). Students will identify, read and write words that start and end with these digraphs (in isolation and in passages). A consonant digraph has 1 sound spelled with 2 consonants side by side. We'll learn this new skill 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: chip, pinch, shop, dash, etc.).

Writing

We got a little behind on our handwriting last week. So, you'll see some letters repeated this week. We will look at more letters with curves - Pp, Bb & Ss. These letters can be trickier so we may spend more than one day on them as needed. Below are some prompts to help as you practice this letter at home. Don't forget - THERE ARE NO LETTERS THAT START AT THE BOTTOM!!

P - down, up, around

p - down, up, around

B - down, back up, around, around

b - down, up, around

S - over, around, curve

s - over, around, curve

During Writer's Workshop, we will learn about verbs. Verbs are words that show action. These words can often be acted out because they tell us things that we can do. Plus, we'll end the week with a holiday-themed writing activity. It will be a good chance for us to apply our handwriting skills.

Math

We will continue to work with subtraction this week. We're starting to get it, but we still need to remember to subtract from the bigger number. We also need to work on getting the correct answers. We will keep discussing different strategies as we subtract. Later, we will apply those strategies to story problems.

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on +4. 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.