



# First Grade Newsletter

## Miss Earle's Class



### Note From Miss Earle

Halloween is Tuesday! It will be crazy, I'm sure. We will be having our **Halloween Parade** in the morning (about 8:15am). It is a good idea to be early. Parents should gather in the gym. Please walk to the school if you can. It will be very crowded and there is limited parking. Plus, we have some preschool buses that will need to get in and out during that time. Students walk through the hallways and then through the gym. Please avoid lining up in the hallways because they will be crowded enough with students as it is. Your child can wear their **Halloween costume** (of course!), but there are some guidelines. There can be no weapons, any depiction of death, violence, drugs, alcohol, smoking, or obscenities. Costume masks can only be worn during the parade. Students can paint their faces. Have your child in a costume that they can comfortably wear **ALL DAY!** They need to be able to go to the bathroom, have lunch, play at recess, and more **IN THEIR COSTUME**. Please plan appropriately!!

We will also have our **class party** on the afternoon before. You are welcome to come help us out. In fact, our room mom has created a **sign-up for the Halloween Party** on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-1:30pm. If you are interested, please sign up at

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4BA8AA2EA2FDO-44947716-miss#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4BA8AA2EA2FDO-44947716-miss#/)

Thanks!

In November, the book for **Shark Readers** is **A-Z Mysteries: The Absent Author** by Ron Roy. Start reading now so that you can finish the book in time for the meeting at the end of the month.

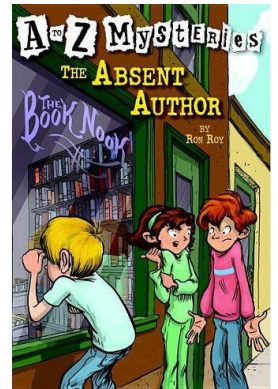
If you still have an "All About Me" poster, please return it as soon as possible.

**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

10/30	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am Class Halloween Party 12:30-1:30pm
10/31	Halloween
11/2	Make-up Picture Day
11/6-10	Patriotic Week
11/8	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
11/10	Fun Friday - Crazy Hair Day!
11/13	PTA Healthy Minds Night 6:30-7:30pm
11/22-24	Thanksgiving Break - No School
11/27	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am

### Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (l- & t- blends) to reading a decodable text. When possible, each group may also have a leveled book to read. On another note, please practice heart words (also known as sight words or high frequency words) with your

child. These are words that don't follow regular decoding patterns. Students need to know these words "by heart" (or "by sight"). Often, the sounds in these words differ from how we spell them. You can find a list of First Grade Heart Words in your child's blue homework folder, but I'll attach a copy to our newsletter as well.

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about ways that people can help in their communities. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers go back to reread when they need help understanding what happened in a story. We'll also talk about how to retell a fiction story by identifying characters, setting and events.

*Heart Words:*      all      call      day      her      want      have

### Word Work/Phonics

We will be introducing initial r- blends this week. Students will identify, read and write words that start and end with these blends (in isolation and in passages). An r- blend has 2 consonants side by side before the vowel. Each consonant in a blend is pronounced. 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: grip, crab, trek, prop, etc.).

### Writing

We are doing short mini-lessons on handwriting at the beginning of our writing time. This week we will look at more letters with curves - Rr, Gg & Qq. 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!!

R - down, back up, around, slant out

r - down, up, curve

G - over, around, across

g - over, around, up, down, curve

Q - over, around, close, slant out

q - over, around, down, curve up

We'll be doing a bit of holiday-themed writing this week. Otherwise, during Writer's Workshop, we will learn common and proper nouns. Common nouns name a person place or thing and start with a lowercase letter. Proper nouns name a particular person, place or thing and start with a capital letter. Writers need to know the difference so that they can choose the correct type of letter.

### Math

We're switching gears this week. We've grown a lot with our addition skills. We want to take a quick break to work on telling time. In first grade, we need to be able to tell time to the hour and half-hour. This week, we will only be focusing on telling time to the hour. We want to focus on the short hour hand because it will point right at the hour for us. Time is a very abstract concept for first graders. We need to tell time on an analog and digital clock. Have your child practice telling time to the hour on the clocks around your house.

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on +3. 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.