



First Grade Newsletter

Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

First Grade is holding some **Reading Meetings for Parents**. Each meeting is geared toward meeting the needs of specific students (ie: low vs. high readers). I sent you an invite to let you know which meeting I recommend for you to attend. If you are unable to attend, I will try to send home to information digitally. Please mark your calendars and I hope to see you there!

In Social Studies, we will be learning about people and their roles in our school and community. **We are interested in having a few people share information about their occupations with us**, such as fireman, policeman, nurse/doctor, mechanic, grocer or mail carrier, etc. Students will be brainstorming interview questions, but you should come ready to share some basics of your job/responsibilities. Visuals (tools, materials, etc.) that you use at your job are welcome. We are planning to hold these interviews **September 25-29. If you are interested in participating, please send me an email.**

Our school is in the midst of our **Direct Donation Fundraiser**. We really need your support! 100% of the money raised will go directly to the school. We can reach our goal of \$15,000 if every student donates \$20 or each family donates \$35. We want all kids to be able to participate even if you are not able to donate. We have some fun rewards for everyone as we work towards our goal. Don't forget to ask your family, coworkers and friends to donate too! Thank you for helping us reach our goal!

We are ready to start using our **Take Home Reading Library**. If you signed the permission form to have your child participate, your child will be bringing home their first books on Tuesday. Each student will have a bag of 5 books on his/her level. This should be his/her independent level. Don't worry if the books are too easy. We want to encourage fluency and confidence. These books need to be returned on Tuesdays. Be sure to sign the sign-off sheet. Volunteers will only exchange your child's books if the sign-off sheet has actually been signed. There will be a note included with your student's first books that has more information and ideas for home. However, if you still have questions, let me know.

I will be trying to organize our **volunteer schedule** this week. If you signed up at Back-to-School Night, I sent you an email to confirm a volunteer spot. If you didn't sign up and are interested, please send me a quick message. We'd be happy to have you volunteer in our classroom. Keep in mind that we really don't want to have younger siblings come with you when you volunteer. They become quite a distraction. Don't worry about coming until October. I'm just putting feelers out to get things ready.

I know that many of you are still in possession of your **"All About Me" posters**. If you could get those filled out and returned as soon as possible, that would be marvelous. We'll use one every week to focus on a student. A student's week may or may not coincide with his/her birthday.

Library Books need to be returned on Wednesday!!

School Spirit Days are on Friday! Wear school colors or school shirts. If you didn't already know, our school colors are purple, green and gray. Go sharks!

Please always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. ☺

Dates to Remember

9/11-22	Direct Donation School Fundraiser
9/21	Parent Reading Meeting for Med-High Readers (by invitation) 3:30-4pm
9/25	Shark Readers Meeting 9:30am
10/6	Teacher Work Day - No School
	Reflections Entries Due www.utahpta.org/ref
10/11	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
10/13	PTA Spooktacular
10/19-20	Fall Break - No School

10/23	Professional Development Day - No School
10/24-27	Book Fair in the Library
10/25-26	Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/2	Make-up Picture Day

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from last week (short o) to reading a decodable text. Plus, I'll also try to have each group have a leveled book to read. Another skill to work on is heart words. These are also referred to as "sight words" or "high frequency words". They are vital to your child's success with reading. They need to be able to read these words without stopping to decode them. They need to know them by "heart." Practice, practice, practice!

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about things friends do when they are together. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how we can ask and answer questions to make sure we understand what we are reading. We'll also talk about using key details to retell what happens in a story.

Heart Words: fun make they too said

Word Work/Phonics

We will be focusing on the short e sound. Students will identify, read and write words with this pattern (in isolation and in passages). We will continue learning about closed syllable words. Closed syllables have 1 vowel letter followed by 1 or more consonants and the vowel sound is short (ie: cat, fed, rip, etc.). This is the most common syllable pattern. We want students to recognize this pattern in unknown words.

Writing

We are doing short mini-lessons on handwriting at the beginning of our writing time. This week we will look at another letter with tunnels: Mm. Below are some prompts to help as you practice this letter at home. There is a formation guide on our class website as well. Don't forget - THERE ARE NO LETTERS THAT START AT THE BOTTOM!!

M - down, slant down, slant up, down m - down, up, over, up, over

During Writer's Workshop, we will be talking about particular types of sentences: questions and exclamations. A question is a sentence that asks something and ends with a question mark. An exclamation shows strong feeling or excitement and ends with an exclamation mark. We'll also discuss how writers put their ideas in an order that make sense. For many of us, that will be making sure that our stories include a beginning, middle and end. Plus, we'll also make some time to work on a fun fall writing project. ☺

Math

This week, we will continue building our understanding of addition by starting to look at the part-part-whole relationship of numbers (ie: 8 could be made by 1+7 or 2+6, 3+5, etc.) and reviewing teen numbers. We need to understand that a teen number is made of a ten and some more. Then, we'll start using this knowledge to add larger numbers. For example, when solving 9+5, students can break down 5 into 1+4. Then, they can use parts of numbers to make a ten (1+9) and see what is left over (4). So, 9+5=14. I know that can seem a bit tricky. However, 10 is a big landmark number when solving larger problems. Practice solving ten friends (numbers that make 10). When possible, encourage your child to make a ten to solve trickier problems.

We will also continue practicing some fact pages this week. The goal in first grade is to get 90% accurate in 5 minutes. This will take some practice. We'll work with our -0 facts. Sometimes it can be trickier than you think to subtract with a zero. Watch for these papers to come home with your student (next week). Feel free to correct any wrong answers or simply finish the problems if necessary.