

Grade 1 Monthly Newsletter: September 2014

September has certainly been a busy month in first grade! As we reflect on our time together, we realize we have already accomplished so much.

Classroom rules and routines have been established. We meet and greet each other to prepare for a new day during Morning Meeting and we know that doing our "best work" is what our teachers expect from us.

AIMs web testing is complete! These assessments are a "snapshot" of your child at one moment in time. The data collected from these assessments allows us to structure our class time in order to best serve your children's needs.

Readers take advantage of small group instruction using a variety of fiction and non-fiction text. Students are also provided with reading material in the classroom and visit the library each week to choose "just right" books.

It is important for first graders to choose books they can read. If a child picks up a book and makes more than 5 errors when reading any given page, they should choose another book.

Writers are expected to complete an illustration about something they did over the weekend and compose at least three sentences to accompany their picture, using proper sentence structure. Students also write important information in their journals, practice handwriting weekly and participate in interactive writing activities.

We continue to review and assess the first four addition strategies students were exposed to last year. The difference

between this year and last is that students are expected to know their facts quickly for immediate two second oral and three second written recall.

If you ever have free time at home and want to practice, that would be great!

Simply offer your child one of the equations from any of the four strategies and think in your head, one thousand one, one thousand two.

If they give you the answer during that time, they have immediate recall. If not, additional practice will be necessary to improve fluency.

Social Studies will continue to focus on building classroom communities and following school and classroom rules.

Science and writing will work together to create our first informative essay on our classroom animal. We will then give students the opportunity to complete a second assignment with an animal of their choice using similar writing guidelines for presentation.

Things to Remember:

- 1. Send in completed homework the following day.**
- 2. Send back folders the following day after they come home.**
- 3. If you do not see a folder on Friday, it means no notices needed to go home.**
- 4. As the weather get cooler, please send in light jackets for outdoor use.**
- 5. Remember to get in touch with us with any concerns in order to clear them up quickly.**

Here's to a wonderful October!

Sincerely, The First Grade Team