

This Week in First Grade

March 2–6

Dear First Grade Families,

I'm looking forward to meeting to with you at spring conferences this Friday, March 6 and Monday, March 9. Last week I began meeting with each of the first graders to celebrate their accomplishments and discuss their spring goals. I'm encouraging them to choose goals are attainable but will also challenge them. So far, some want to work on a science or social studies project, others want to learn to read and spell some high frequency words, and others want to become more fluent in their basic math facts. I will continue my one-to-one meetings with them this week.

Speaking of accomplishments, I am amazed at the kids' reading achievement since September. Research shows there is a huge correlation between reading practice and reading achievement. Just fifteen to thirty minutes of reading every night through high school will improve their reading scores. Take a look at this article:

<https://www.renaissance.com/2018/01/23/blog-magic-15-minutes-reading-practice-reading-growth/>

The 3-ring binder that I sent home at the beginning of the school year has stories that sequentially build on phonograms that we study in first grade. For 15 minutes each day have your first grader read them aloud in order, and when finished, send in the binder to get new pages. It's important for you to sit next to your child as they read aloud to guide them in decoding unknown words. I realize that some of the stories are a little dry, but know that your child will benefit from reading these phonetic texts.

Lent: Last week we experienced the solemnity of Lent at Mass on Ash Wednesday and at Adoration and the Stations of the Cross on Friday. Through Father Nathan's guidance each Nativity student was encouraged to commit to prayer (such as saying a prayer before bedtime), fasting (such as giving up candy), and almsgiving (such as doing a good deed every day). Please talk to your first grader about their Lenten commitments.

Art Adventure: Art Adventure will be coming to 1st grade via Katie Anderson. Art Adventure is a program offered by the Mpls. Institute of Arts that brings reproductions of the museum's art into the classroom. Katie will be coming to our classroom March 1, 16, and 30.

Positivity Project: This weeks' theme is Celebrating Others' Success

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Religion: Continue to learn about the season of Lent

Reading: *Phonics/Spelling* - ch, ai, and oa words. *Comprehension* – Recognize plot: problem and solution; draw conclusions about characters and events; understand

author's purpose *vocabulary* – suffixes less and ness; antonyms *Writing* – writing a description

Math: Continue the counting sequence

Social Studies: The 1st graders will learn about the need for laws in a community, and how community leaders help people.

Science: The first graders will be writing their animal reports and they will start working on their animal habitat dioramas.

Have a great week!

Mrs. Duerr