

# First Grade Happenings

SEPTEMBER 4, 2018



## WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE!

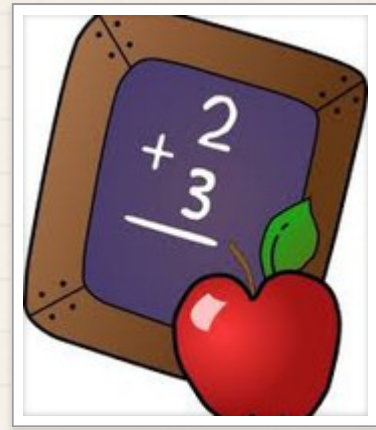
Our first week was exhausting and wonderful! Thank you for the supplies, wish list items, and support as we got the year underway after moving and setting up in such a short time. There were a lot of procedures and issues with our new facilities that we had to work out as a grade level and as a school, but things went pretty smoothly by the end of the week. We can't thank you enough for your patience as we ironed out the wrinkles.

This is the first of our grade level newsletters, which we will send home biweekly. Our intention is to keep you informed of what we are teaching and learning in first grade, upcoming events at Wiley, and important activities in our classes. In addition, individual teachers will send emails or notes about things specific to their class. Each teacher will send a link to the newsletter via email to parents who have shared an email address with us, and we will provide a paper copy to others. Please let us know your email address if you have not done so already.

## REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

We encourage you to send a water bottle each day while the weather is hot. Also, it is a good idea for students to bring a light jacket or sweater (it can stay in the room all year unless you want your child to bring it home each day.) The temperature in the modular unit fluctuates a bit as the fan comes on and goes off.

- **Wednesday, Sept. 19 - NO SCHOOL**
- **Thursday, Sept. 27 at 6 pm - Open House at Wiley**
- **Friday, Sept. 28 - Early Release; students dismissed at 1:15 pm**



## WHAT WE ARE DOING IN CLASS THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Entering the second week of school, we are focused on building our classroom community and establishing expectations for all parts of the school day. The children are working on building their stamina for paying attention and learning all day. This week, we will begin assessing children in reading. You will get the results of our initial assessments in a few weeks.

In *Language Arts*, we are working on:

- Building good habits and stamina for reading to self
- Basic reading strategies (using pictures, recognizing sight words, sounding out words)
- Reinforcing knowledge of short vowel sounds
- Launching our Writer's Workshop - learning the routines

In *Math*, we are working on counting to 150, starting at a number less than 150. We are also learning that 2-digit numbers are composed of tens and ones. Go to the First Grade Memberhub and read more about this standard:

## HOMEWORK - GENERAL POLICY

Our policy at Wiley is to provide ideas for positive experiences at home with your child, as opposed to providing daily worksheets. Research shows that primary age children do not benefit from doing written homework. In fact, some children resist doing homework, and it can become a source of friction for the family. However, we also realize that parents want to know what their children are doing in school, and some parents want to provide extra practice at home. We also know that the time a child spends reading has a direct impact on the child's reading achievement. Taking all of this under consideration, our plan in first grade is as follows.

**READING:** Every child should read for 15 minutes every night. This can be you reading to your child, your child reading to you, or a combination. You can find questions to ask after reading on the first grade Memberhub page (see link\*). We will also provide a few of those questions in each newsletter throughout the year.

**SPELLING:** Beginning next week, we will send home a page on Mondays from our Letterland program. You should ask your child to read the words

## HOMEWORK THIS WEEK

- **Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Discuss what was read. For fiction, children can retell the events in the story. For nonfiction texts, children can tell what they learned.**
- **Students, tell your parents the "3 Ways to Read a Book".**
- **Count aloud to 150 (to an adult), starting at 78.**
- **Tell or write the following numbers in the correct sequence:** 104, 39, 65, 72, 14, 125, 88, 9, 119, 41

\*Memberhub link with comprehension questions, Letterland word lists, and math challenge problems can be found at:

[:https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository](https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository)

<https://wiley.memberhub.com/hubs/11112/repository>

Our *Social Studies* unit is practicing good citizenship, respecting authority, and following rules and routines. (We will alternate Science and Social Studies throughout the year; we're starting now with Social Studies and will begin Science at the end of September.)

And finally, we are working on developing a *growth mindset*. This means having a mindset that you can and will learn something, rather than thinking you already know it or can't learn it. A person with a growth mindset will accomplish so much more than a person without it. We will focus on creating, developing, and nurturing this critical skill in all of our students throughout the year. Look for more information on growth mindset in future communications from us.

on List A, then spell them for you. If your child can read and spell these words, you can have him/her practice other words on the page that follow the same spelling patterns. If your child can not yet read or spell the words from List A, please work on this for 5 minutes or so each night. Children will be practicing the words in class as well, and an assessment will be given every Friday. You can find lists for the whole year on the Memberhub page (see link\*).

**MATH:** We will provide 1-2 math problems in each newsletter. The problems will match the standards we are teaching at that point in the year and will give you an opportunity to see how your child is doing with those standards. If you feel your child needs more challenging work, you can find some great problems on the Memberhub page (see link\*.)

**SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES:** We will assign one project each quarter to match either a science or social studies unit of study. These will be optional and will be communicated in separate letters or emails.

Have a great week! – First Grade Team

sabel@wcpss.net, cblum@wcpss.net, awierman2@wcpss.net