

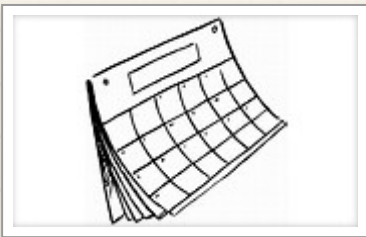
# First Grade Happenings

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Dear families,

It is hard to believe that it's nearing the end of September and we've already been in school for a month! Weirdly, though, we have only had 15 instructional days. As teachers, we are happy to have established our routines and procedures but look forward to deepening our academic focus at this point. And

things are definitely heating up! We are excited about Literacy Night this Thursday, holding conferences with you in the coming weeks, and setting up our field trips for the year. We have several important dates coming up in October, including picture day and a Fall Festival. Mark your calendars so you don't miss anything, and stay tuned for field trip dates to come home soon!



## REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT DATES

- **Thursday, Sept. 27 - PTA Meeting & Literacy Night, 6:30**
- **Monday, Oct. 2 - Fall Pictures**
- **Oct. 8-12 - Spirit Week**
- **Friday, Oct. 12 - Fall Festival, St. Mary's School, 5:30-7:30**
- **Oct. 15-19 - Fall Book Fair at Quail Ridge Books**

## THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK IN CLASS

In *reading*, we will continue to practice retelling stories. When retelling, children are asked to identify the characters and setting, then retell the story in sequence, and to explain the moral or lesson of the story if there is one. Students are expected to verbally retell stories with all of these components included and also to be able to retell stories with pictures and words. We are wrapping up our study of Kevin Henkes books. Additionally, in reading we are reviewing short vowel sounds and word families via our Letterland units.

In *writing*, we have introduced the Writer's Workshop structure that we will use this year, in which we teach a minilesson, then students have time to practice the skill that was taught. We are currently working on writing a personal narrative. In the coming weeks, we will strive to tighten the workshop procedures, learn how to think of topics to write about, and write stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

In *math*, we are learning about place value and basic addition. Students will learn to create or look or groups of 10 when counting objects and understand the correlation between the groups of ten and the digit in the tens place of a number. (For example, 16 is one group of ten and 6 ones.)

We are wrapping up our *social studies* unit on citizenship and will begin a *science* unit on rocks and soil. Students will observe and sort rocks, learning that rocks have different characteristics - color, hardness, and texture - resulting from how the rocks were formed.



- Read for 10-15 minutes each night. Ask your child: Who were the characters in the story? What was the setting of the story? What happened at the beginning, middle, and end? Was there a lesson that we are supposed to learn from this story?
- Practice reading and writing the words in Letterland Unit 2 this week and Unit 3 next week (lists are sent home on Mondays).
- Write down a number between 1 and 10. Have your child start there and write the next numbers, going to 20. For the two-digit numbers (10-20), ask your child how many groups of ten are in the number and how many ones.
- Ask your child to explain why we need rules at home and at school.

\*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)

Have a great week! – First Grade Team

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