



Room 412

First Grade Newsletter #3

September 18, 2017

Dear Families,

Hi! It was lovely to see many of you for Curriculum Night on Wednesday! Many of you added a drawing or some words to our poster of Hopes and Dreams for our classroom community or shared a favorite memory of first grade or book recommendation. If you were not able to attend, please feel free to add your ideas during arrival time this week. And, please take a moment to read over the information that I have put in your mail pouch.

We have discussing our Hopes and Dreams for the school year together. The first graders shared their expectations for our classroom: safe, fun, a place to learn and make friends, a place where we help others and where others help us, a place where we follow the Golden Rule. Then, we read a book called *Happy School Year!* By Susan Milord, about some students' experiences on their first day of school. After that, the children shared their hopes and dreams for first grade. Check out our ideas on the board outside the classroom!

Last week in math, we practiced making "math drawings" on dry erase boards. These drawings help us to express our math ideas efficiently and quickly, rather than more artistic and detailed drawings. We also practiced partnership work as we played the games Bump and Chips in a Cup. If you have a free minute at arrival time, ask your child to teach you how to play! In Reading Workshop, we practiced taking a sneak peak in our books to make predictions about stories before reading them. In Writing Workshop, the first graders wrote and drew about important stories from their lives. They took some time to think and plan before drawing and writing.

We are excited to see you all on Wednesday for our Family Welcome Breakfast!

Thanks for everything and have a wonderful week!

Laurel

P.S. Unless you indicated that you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in your mail pouch, from now on please read the newsletter on our webpage. Thanks!

- Forms: Please take moment to complete the forms that I placed in your mail pouch Thanks!!!
- Allergies: Most years, there are some students in the room who are allergic to peanuts and/or tree nuts. Please be mindful of this when packing lunches or bringing in snacks. I will give you more specifics when I know more. Thanks for helping to keep the classroom safe for everyone!
- Recess: First Graders go outside to recess every morning from 9:15-9:55, unless weather is inclement. In that case, we will be in the basement gym.
- Newsletters: We will be sending out a newsletter most weeks, usually by the end of the day on Monday. Eventually, they newsletters will go out electronically. You can always find our class newsletter on our class webpage. Go to the school's website: <http://www.ps333.org> and click on the class pages. The password is: abc123. I am also happy to leave a hard copy in your mail pouch. Just let me know.
- Greenhouse with Shakira: We visit Shakira in the Greenhouse every Friday morning from 8:32-9:12. I will be out of the room, as this is my prep. Please drop your child off in the Greenhouse on Friday mornings at 8:32. It's helpful to leave lunches and water bottles in his or her cubby before heading up. When the weather is chilly, the children should bring jackets to the greenhouse because the class will be going directly to recess (not stopping by the classroom).
- Water: There's a water fountain with filtered water in the hallway where students can step out and get a drink. You may also bring in a reusable water bottle for your child to keep in the classroom. If you have a bottle with a clip or hook, that would be great so we can hang bottles and keep table space for the children to work on.
- Lunch: Students eat lunch in the classroom, at around 11:30 every day. You may order school lunch (which is delivered to the classroom) or bring one from home.
- Bathroom: The bathroom is in the hallway. Students leave the room to use the bathroom when they need to go by putting their name on the board so that we know where they are. 2 boys and 2 girls may leave the room at a time.
- Communication: The best way to check in with is by leaving a message on the message board in the classroom. I will call you back within a day. If you'd like to have a quick chat, just stick around after dismissal on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. We have staff meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays, so I would have to scoot out right away after the children are dismissed. Please check your child's mail pouch daily for important information and special work going home. It's really helpful for you to remind your child that the pouches are just for grown-ups. That way, we can be sure messages get home to you. The kids have work trays inside the classroom.
- Snack: We eat snack together each morning in the classroom, usually after recess, but this time may vary. Please sign up for a time to bring in snack on the calendar on the outside board.
- Our Day: School begins at 8:32. Drop-off for students is in the classroom. Arriving on time helps us all transition into our day together, and feel ready for the day ahead. Students arriving after 8:45 will be marked late or absent, and will require a late pass from the main office. School ends at 2:55. Pick-up is in the classroom. If you are running late, please pick your child up in the auditorium.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday, September 20: First Grade Family Breakfast 8:30-9:00 in the classroom. Keep an eye on the board outside your child's classroom for a treat sign-up
- Thursday, September 21- Friday, September 22- Rosh Hashanah -no school
- Monday, October 9: Columbus Day- no school

