



Room 412

First Grade Newsletter #13

November 27, 2017

Dear Families,

Hi! I hope you all had a fun long weekend with lots of time together! Thank you for doing your best with the book bag routine. The first graders seem very comfortable switching out books independently. Please check in with me if you have any questions.

We are beginning a family unit for social studies, and our own family lives and history will guide the unit. We will be sending home a packet with more information and some homework for your and your child to look at together in the next week or so. As every family is unique, the unit can take many directions. Please check in with me if there are any situations in your family that you think I should be sensitive to, explore more deeply or that you otherwise would like me to know about.

In math, we began a conversation about *doubles*, when the same 2 numbers are added together. We read the classic *Madeline*, then looked at the arrangement of the students in 2 straight lines. We discovered that there are 12 children in 2 lines of 6, whether we count by ones or by twos. We learned that when everyone has a partner, we can make doubles.

Last week in Reading Workshop we received more missions from the SSDA. They instructed us on ways to use all that we know about "snap words." These are words that we can read from memory rather than sounding out, many of which are on the word wall. We discovered that, as word detectives, we can solve mystery words by thinking of similar words that read in a snap. For example, reading *and* in a snap can help us read *stand, hand, band, sand* and many other words. We also learned that word detectives can turn new words into a snap word. After we sound out a word, we: read it, spell it, write it and read it again. We practice this until we remember and can read it in a snap.

In Writing Workshop, the First Graders publishing their how to books, and added a cover with a title, author and picture to match. They also spent social studies time writing about a special family memory. I worked with each child to pay close attention to one way to make the story even stronger, and everyone thought of a special ending to send the reader away with. These stories will be tacked up inside the classroom this week, so please feel free to take them down if you would like to read them!

We will revisit the pond for our First Friday Trip on December 1. We'll leave around 12:15 from the classroom and return by 2:45. Please sign up outside the classroom to join us!

Relatives and Special Friends Day is coming up on December 8! Please save the date. We will send out more details soon!

Have a fantastic week and thank you for all of your support!

Laurel

PS Remember, one way to learn more about your child's time at school is to read the newsletter to and along with him or her.

Upcoming Dates

Friday, December 1 – First Friday Field Trip: Visit to Central Park Pond: 12:15–2:45

Friday, December 8 – Relatives and Special Friends Day: Details to Follow

Monday, December 25– Monday, January 1, 2018: Winter Recess– No School

Tuesday, January 2: School resumes

Important Reminders

Recess: Every morning from 9:15–9:55, in the yard or basement gym

Greenhouse with Shakira: Friday morning from 8:32–9:12. I will be out of the room for my prep. Please drop your child off in the Greenhouse on Friday mornings at 8:32. Please leave lunches and water bottles in cubbies before heading down. Remember to bring jackets to the greenhouse because we go directly to recess (not stopping by the classroom).

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.

Our Day: School begins at 8:32. Arriving on time helps us all transition into our day together in a positive way. 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're running late, pick your child up in the auditorium.