



First Grade News



P.S. 140Q The Edward K. Ellington School

November, 2016

Dear Parents,

Please make sure you are reviewing the homework and drill sheets each night with your child. When your child misses homework, it shows in their classwork. Thank you to all parents to go above and beyond with their child.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The children have been reading non-fiction books and looking for specific information in science. We use what is known as text-dependent questions. These are questions that can only be answered by referring back to the text. Students are required and taught how to look for text-based evidence to support their answers, a major shift in the common core standards. As you read with your child at home, be sure to focus your questions that are an outgrowth of exactly what was read in the text.

We are beginning a new unit in Ready Gen. The focus is on becoming a Good Classroom Citizen. We will be reading, [A Fine Fine School](#) and [Recess Queen](#). The children will begin to write opinion pieces that are supported by specific reasons from the text.

All classes use ***Fundations*** to teach the necessary phonics skills for your children to be successful learners. We will continue to work on building phonemic awareness and phonics skills in each lesson. The children have been enjoying the daily lessons in Fundations. Continue to practice the words on the HW sheets. Review Trick words and practice stories.

MATH

The first grade teachers have been taking data from the kids and tracking their progress in math. The children have been making great strides with their daily math lessons, specifically their problem solving skills. The first grade teachers will focus on the daily fluency lessons that are essential for the children to be successful as well as applying the fluencies to real life situations through complex problem solving activities; two major shifts in the new Common Core standards for mathematics. Please make sure that your children are practicing their fluencies at home and that you are checking the homework on a nightly basis. We will be monitoring your child's progress through daily exit cards for each lesson that will tell the classroom teacher who needs extra support in meeting the standards for this grade level. There will also be chapter assessments and various benchmark assessments throughout the year as a means of monitoring the progress of every child and planning lessons to meet the needs of every first grader.

Our focus over the next few weeks is on:

Subtraction and Addition Strategies.

There are formative assessments that are done throughout the lessons to make sure we see who may need some extra support. All teachers also give chapter pre and post assessments. We are able to focus our instruction for whole class and small groups based upon the results.

It is important that the children in first grade explain how they arrived at their answers. This helps develop the math concepts in the first grade, as we continue to teach the children how to solve complex math problems.

Please send in a healthy snack everyday. We eat snack in the morning, as our lunch is at 12:15.

Every child will be given a password to sign on to I-ready, MYON, and MATHLETICS. Please let your child use the programs on a daily basis. It will be incorporated in their homework. If you are having trouble logging in or do not have access to a computer or tablet, please let us know.



SOCIAL STUDIES

This first grade social studies unit of study:

- helps students learn about their roles as members of a family and school community.
- develops a sense of individual identity and social interaction.
- explores an understanding of self, family, and school across the five social studies standards.
- helps students to learn about families now and long ago.
- investigates different kinds of families that have existed in different societies and communities.

The first grade students have been learning about families in social studies. They have been studying the members in their own family, other families, and the history of family. The children have been completing writing assignments and projects on the different roles and responsibilities of each member in the family. The students also had an opportunity to write and say their opinion of what family meant to them by including evidence from trade books that were read to them in class.

After this unit of study in social studies, students will be able to answer these focus questions:

- *What is a family?*
- *How have families changed over time?*
- *How do members of a family help each other?*

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 3- Half Day

Parent Teacher Conferences

!2:50-2:40 and 4:30-7:30

November 8- NO SCHOOL Election Day

November 11- NO SCHOOL Veterans Day

November 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess