



First Grade News



ISSUE 1

September 8, 2023

Welcome to First Grade!

This is the first of the weekly Friday newsletters that will keep you updated about first grade happenings throughout the year. It certainly is going to be a fantastic year of learning and growing!

Social Emotional Learning



First graders have been working on building a classroom community, learning classroom routines, and fostering independence.

Morning Meeting has provided a time each day for first graders to learn about each other,

feel appreciated, develop important social and academic skills, and utilize their speaking and listening skills.

Literacy

This week first graders discussed and practiced the expectations for Reader's Workshop. In Reader's Workshop, our class will follow a daily routine. We gather on the meeting rug for a mini lesson, then read to self, with a partner or with a teacher, and finally come back together to share. This week we focused on reading by ourselves and building our reading stamina. We discussed what independent reading should look like and sound like during reading time. During independent reading, we should



- Whisper read to ourselves
- Keep our eyes on the book
- Have a still body
- Get started right away
- Take another book when we are done
- Reread books

We also practiced gathering our book bins and sharing at the end of our workshop time.

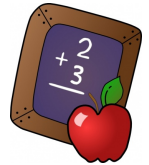
Writing

Our writing this week focused on writing about ourselves and learning some of the writing routines. First graders wrote about themselves in an "All About Me" activity. We also wrote our names and something we liked that began with the first letter of our name, an activity inspired by the book *A My Name is Alice* by Steven Kellogg. Finally, students did some writing in their *Weekly News* journal, either writing about something special they did over the long holiday weekend and drawing a picture that matched or writing and drawing about the best part of their week. This is a similar structure to the Weekend News that students may have done in kindergarten.



Math

This week in Math, first graders began our first unit *Adding, Subtracting and Working with Data*. We started exploring with addition! First graders reviewed strategies for addition such as touch and count and counting on as we work to build fluency by adding within 10. We introduced new math vocabulary terms **expression**, or number sentence (for example, $2+3$), and **sum**, or total. We also learned new math games: Number Race, Check It Off, and 5 in a Row.



Technology

As a reminder, iPads will remain at school. **Please send in any chargers and cords that you may have at home.** Although students will not have their devices at home, they may still access school approved apps including STMath and Lexia by using their Clever badges with a home device. Teachers have affixed each student's clever badge inside their home school folder.



Save the Date



September 13th: Picture Day

September 20th: Early Release

September 20th: Curriculum Night In Person- 7:00-7:30p.m.

September 25th: NO SCHOOL Rosh Hashanah



First Grade News

