



January News

Mrs. Shea's 1st Grade

January 2018

Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to another month in our 1st grade classroom. We would like to inform you of what is happening in our classroom as well as upcoming events this month.

Since winter is officially here and we have a snow and ice covered playground, students need to be wearing snow pants, hats, mittens, and boots in order to stay warm enough for recess play. Packing extra socks in their winter gear bag and even an extra pair of shoes would be a great idea. LABEL everything!

Reading At Home

I would like to thank-you for listening to your child practice their reading every day. Giving your child lots of opportunities to read aloud will help strengthen their reading skills and build their reading stamina. Two easy ways you can help your child become a confident reader. Try a tip each week and see what works best for you and your child.

- Once is not enough

Encourage your child to re-read their books, chapters, and shared reading poems. Re-reading helps them read fluently and accurately, deepens their story meaning, allows them to notice more visual information, and increases their sight vocabulary in a meaningful way.

- One more time with feeling

When your child has figured out an unfamiliar or tricky word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often they are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

Spelling

Attached you will find a list of Grade 1 Core Words and Priority Words. I cannot stress to you enough the importance of practicing these words with your child on a regular basis.

The lists are divided into two parts:

Core Words: They are the seeds from which this spelling program grows and develops. They provide a foundation for each grade level to begin spelling exploration and are a springboard for the study of hundreds of additional words.

Priority Words: They are high frequency words called "No Excuses" words. Students are held accountable for knowing these words. They are expected to spell them correctly in all of their everyday writing. These words are taken from the list of core words. Most children will master these by the end of his/her grade level.

How can you help?

Please help your child to spell these words correctly in their everyday writing. Each week, make flashcards of 3 to 5 words. Have your child practice reading and spelling these words every day. Remember, the goal is mastery by the end of first grade for the "No Excuse Words."

Science and Social Studies Update

I would like to share with you an article written by one of our parents, Susan Olcott; Phoebe and Lili's mom. We are so lucky to have Susan be a part of our learning. Her article gives great insight into of our learning experience.

<http://www.hbook.com/2018/01/blogs/family-reading/winter-seeds/#>

During her last visit in December we had a chance to be scientists by observing squirrels and learning about their winter habitat. Be sure to ask your child what they enjoyed or learned during their experiences.

We had our first Arts Are Elementary session on Wednesday, January 10th. This is a connection to Social Studies learning of Now and Then. We are learning about the art of Quilting. We will be designing and sewing our very own Quilt Square! I have been also reading some great Quilt literature both fiction and non-fiction. Here's a few titles: *Quilting Bee*, by Gail Gibbons, *The Name Quilt*, by Margot Apple, *The Keeping Quilt*, by Patricia Polacco, *The Quilt Story*, by Tony and Tomie dePaola, and *Eight Hands Round*, by Ann Paul.



Thanks again for all your support,
Brenda Shea

Important Dates:

- AAE: Jan. 10th, 17th, **24th, 31st *volunteers needed for these 2 dates**
- No School: Jan. 15th-Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jan. 23rd: Kinderkonzert, 9:00-10:30am Crooker Theater
- Book Order will be sent home-**Due back or online by 2/2/18**

