

Mrs. Oswald's First Grade News



August 29, 2014

Welcome to First Grade!!!

I am so excited about the great bunch of kids that are ready to start the new year together. They are such an enjoyable little group of kids and we have been having so much fun starting the year while we get to know about each other as well as learning about our classroom rules and procedures. Our first couple of full weeks have been long but enjoyable and I am certain that this is going to be a wonderful new year! I am looking forward to working with each of you as the year progresses!

Our focus these first couple of weeks has been building our classroom community by getting to know one another better as well as create our classroom rules. The kids are doing well with our general classroom procedures. Our biggest goal right now is responding to our "chimes" to stop talking and show we are "ready".

This week we introduced our Read to Self activity for our morning routine. Each day they have had time to read from their own book boxes. Ask them about Read to Self and how they are becoming independent readers and building stamina as they read for longer periods of time each day. We also discussed the three ways to read a book (read the pictures, read the words, retell the story) and how we can use these during our independent reading time.

As we start to get back into the routines of being back to school, please don't forget to check and clean out your child's folder each night. We ask that you help your child remember to bring this back each day. I value the importance of communication and this makes it much easier to get important papers home!!! Thanks for your help and support with this!

We are reading books by the author Kevin Henkes to start our year. This week we read Chrysanthemum and the students wrote about things that make them feel happy or "bloom". We also read Lily's Purple Plastic Purse and talked about how everyone makes mistakes. We discussed how we fix our mistakes and that we will use "take a break" in our room to stop, rest and reset our bodies and/or minds to continue with our day.

This week we practiced writing letters to friends and family, writing sticker stories, and writing in our journals. These will be weekly choices for the kids during work on writing time. We also worked on spelling sight words during word work time using a variety of tools (magnetic letters, dry erase boards, playdough and our word work journals).

We did a few pages in our new math workbooks this week. You should have seen one of our practice pages come

home in your child's folder. These should be completed and returned the next day. You should find that these pages are pretty easy for your child and are meant to be a review or practice. If you notice that your child has a difficult time completing these or needs lots of help, please let me know! I am noticing that many of the kids are struggling with backwards numbers. We will be taking some time next week to work on this specific skill. Additional practice at home would also be beneficial if this is something your child struggles with.

The temperature in our classroom has been on the colder side and is not consistent throughout the day. You may want to consider sending a light sweater or jacket for your child to put on in the event that he/she gets cold during the day. Don't forget to get in the habit of labeling your child's extra articles of clothing as they seem to get lost easily!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!

September 1st: No School - Labor Day

September 5th/6th: Book Orders are DUE

September 9th: PTO meeting

September 10th: Picture Day - more details to come!

September 11th: Late Start - 10:05 Arrival

Please ask your child these questions to review their week:

1. What are two ways to read a book?
2. What do you remember to do during read to self? (read the whole time, read quietly, stay in one spot, etc)
3. Tell me at least one classroom rule.
4. What was your favorite book that you read or Mrs. Oswald read this week? Tell me about it.