

September 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

It seems as if the first full month of school has gone by quickly, yet we've done so much work. I'm amazed at how fast the students are learning. I admire their enthusiasm and determination.

Progress reports are coming home today. Please take time to review the report with your child, pointing out their strengths. I would appreciate it if you would sign and return the progress report as soon as possible. Phonics is an area that is especially important as we begin reading. I'm expecting students to know their basic sounds and to start sounding out words as they use their "word attack" skills. Many are very hesitant about this. Continued practice at home would help with confidence, as reading can be a daunting task!

Attached to this newsletter is the October parent help schedule. If there is a problem with your scheduled day, please let me know. On this calendar you will also find important dates. On November 20th, I have scheduled a Thanksgiving family potluck for the first grade families. **SAVE THE DATE!** More information will be sent home on this as soon as I firm up some details. If anyone is interested in helping me with this, please let me know. On the calendar, you will also notice that library and computer have been moved in a few cases due to holidays, assemblies, etc. Please check your calendar each week to see when these changes will take place.

I am sending home a sounds assessment that your child was given. During this assessment, students were tested individually and shown flashcards with a letter on each one. They were asked to say the sound that the given letter made. We revisit different letters daily in our phonics and reading lessons so that through repetition the students will master the sounds. As we progress, we will work on blends and long vowel sounds.

Below you will find the topics we will be covering this month, as well as share themes.

#### RELIGION

God's Love

The Good Samaritan

DECIDE (drug education)

Building Character - RESPONSIBILITY

#### MATH

Addition Sums and Subtraction Differences

## SOCIAL STUDIES

*People and Places, focus on map skills*

## SCIENCE

*Solids, Liquids, and Gases continued*

## LANGUAGE ARTS:

Phonics: r, w, j, k, short ev, y, /z/ spelled z and zz, /kw/ spelled qu

\*\*\*In September, we worked on the following:

\* m, s, t, short a, /k/ spelled c, p, n, /f/ spelled f and ff, b, g, short i, d, /l/ spelled l and ll, h, short o

Comprehension: plot, realism/fantasy

\*\*\*In September, we worked on the following: listening comprehension, character, setting, predicting, plot, realism versus fantasy

Vocabulary: describing, sorting words

\*\*\*In September, we worked on the following: sorting words, giving descriptions

Grammar: adjectives, describing places

\*\*\*In September, we worked on the following: nouns, verbs, simple sentences

Writing: using adjectives in sentences, journal writing, shared writing (writing a story as a class)

\*\*\*In September, we worked on the following: journal writing, completing a sentence

## SHARE THEMES.....

Week of October 5 - object that has short a (beginning, middle, or end of word)

Week of October 12 - object that has short i (beginning, middle, or end of word)

Week of October 19 - free choice

Week of October 26 - reminder of Halloween

*HELP WANTED!!!!!!! As part of International Week which is in October, we will begin a Mission Awareness Program. Our class will be studying Korea. If you have any items related to Korea or from Korea, feel free to share them with us. Examples include postcards, travel brochures or money. I would appreciate any help with this.*

*Please visit our school website and come see what we are doing in first grade! I will put our monthly newsletter on our class page in case you misplace yours. This will also include the volunteer schedule for our class. I also encourage you to visit the website for our religion series. Go to [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com). We use the Legacy Edition of the book. For the students, they can visit the Kids' Clubhouse Grades K-3 to review the chapter we are working on and check out the games and activities. For families, there is a link for Sunday readings, prayers, and much more. I am also sending home a letter with log in information to our reading series. I encourage you to look at these websites to reinforce what we are learning at school.*

*I am looking forward to another successful month. Feel free to drop a note or call and leave a message if you have any questions or concerns that arise.*

*Sincerely,*

*Julie Brand*