**First Grade**  **Newsletter**

It was so good to get to meet many of you at our recent Curriculum Night. We are already halfway through our first quarter together and are busy learning now that our routines are well established. We look forward to meeting with you later this month to discuss your child’s academic path over the course of this year. Your teacher will be contacting you soon with sign-up information.

Please read below for information about what your child has been and will be doing in our different curriculum areas:

**READING:** We have really enjoyed the engaging books from our new curriculum, as they launched us into learning about the Habits of Character! We connected with the little girl in The Most Magnificent Thing, as she demonstrated *initiative* and *perseverance* to follow through with her idea to invent her magnificent thing. It inspired us to stay strong while adding to our inventions and ideas during our Labs extension. We were highly engaged with The Little Red Pen with its animated characters, hilarious reactions, and successful *collaboration* to save little red pen (and others) out of the pit of no return (the trash can)! We read these texts closely to assist with fully comprehending the story and discovering various habits of character. We also enjoy finding these habits in other books that we read during our accountable, independent reading time.

**WRITING:** This month we focused on written response to the books we read together. We emphasized using details from the illustrations and words from the text to tell how characters are feeling or why they chose to act in a particular way. This upcoming month we will also be creating our own magnificent thing, as something that helps our classroom. Later on this month, we will write about what habits of character we demonstrated while creating our own magnificent thing.

**WORD STUDY/PHONICS:** Thus far we have reviewed sounds for consonants and vowels, as well as recalling sight words from last year. We continue to use our Sight Word Super Powers to identify these words, find words that rhyme with each sight word, as well as use them to spell other words (like using ‘find’ to spell ‘mind’ OR using ‘must’ to spell ‘trust’). Thank you for your support at home with learning and reviewing these sight words for homework. You can challenge your child at home by also spelling them! We are stretching our brain power to hear all sounds in words and increasing our phonological awareness by tapping sounds in words (i.e. clap, c-l-a-p), breaking up compound words (cupcake - cup / cake), and counting syllables in words.

This month we will continue to strengthen our Super Word Powers with word work using sight words, building our phonological awareness, blending consonants and vowels to read and spell words, as well as separating sounds to spell words. We will also touch on some spelling rules, including when to spell a word with a C/K for the initial sound, and also when to add ‘s or -s to the end of words.

**MATH:** Thus far we have been working on addition and subtraction to ten. We are learning about different strategies we can use to solve problems. We know that there is more than one way to solve a math problem, so we are working together to share our ideas and solutions. We have also started math centers and games so we can practice what we have learned. This month we will work on addition to twenty.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** We have spent a lot of time learning about rules and laws at home, at school, and in our communities. We have talked about how rules and laws make our homes, classrooms, and communities safe and happy places to live and learn. We also learned about authority figures and how their work is important to making us safe and healthy. This month we will look at the history of Christopher Columbus and the discovery of the “New World”

**SCIENCE:** In September, we began our first science unit about recognizing the features and patterns of the earth/moon/sun system. Students have learned about the differences in the day and night sky. They have also learned how the moon changes appearance from day to day.

In October, we will begin a unit about Force and Motion. During this unit of study, students will learn about pushes and pulls, magnets, and changes in motion and balance.

**LOVE OF LEARNING:** We have used our first month together to get accustomed to the routines of our Morning Meeting. This classroom gathering begins at 7:45 each morning and has become an essential part of our day. We use the time to greet one another, gain a perspective on what we have going on for that day, and build a cohesive, supportive classroom community. This is also the time that we carry out citizens & scholars lessons and activities. In September we learned about being OPEN-MINDED and during October we will focus on being LEADERS.

**Important Dates for October**

* 9 - Teacher Workday / No School for Students
* 11 - Red Friday
* 15 -Fall Picture Day
* 16 - Early Release Day / Students Dismissed at 11:45
* 18 - First Grade to Children’s Theater [Peter Pan]
* 25 - Citizens & Scholars Assembly [LEADERS]
* 25 - Last Day of First Quarter
* 28 - Teacher Workday / Parent-Teacher Conferences

We are planning to have a tremendous year together in first grade and look forward to partnering with you for your child’s success. Thank you for the support you have already provided for your child, your class, and your teacher.

THE FIRST GRADE TEAM:

Mrs. Boughman, Ms. Goodson, Mrs.Roberts, Mrs. Shockley,

Mrs. Valois, Mrs. Vande Weghe, and Ms. Vruwink