



The Parent Connection

First Grade at E.A. White School

August 15, 2007

First Grade Parents,

It has been a fantastic week! The children are getting settled into their daily routines and are doing great. The children visited the library yesterday and had a great time picking out books. If some of the books they choose are too hard for them to read, please help them or read the book to them. Eventually I will try to make sure they check out books on their reading levels. On Mondays, (starting August 25) your child will be bring home a homework folder with a homework note inside. This Friday folder and the homework folder will need to come back to school the next school day. The children are to place the folders on the red stool by the front door. I will fill the folders during the week, so please help them to remember to bring them to school. Also, please keep the class handbook I sent home last week. It has important information about our first grade standards and other activities. The children are bringing home a sheet of 220 Dolch sight words. It is important that the children learn these words over the course of the year. I don't give lists by each nine weeks, but rather all the words that are needed to read confidently and fluently. We will work with these words over the year as well. An idea is to highlight the words as your child masters them. You can go to a search engine and type in Dolch sight words and learn more about them. You can also print up flash cards etc.

WOW! The response for help in the class and outside the classroom was outstanding! A handful of moms came to me and requested to help with my areas of need. So, for now, I am set and in December I will see if anyone is burned out and wants a break. I will then call on the others who offered to help me this year. I can always use help with items for the treasure box. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

I have my own set of lexiled (reading level) books in the classroom. They are arranged by lexlie level. They need to be reorganized and made sure that they are in the proper bin. If anyone is interested in coming in and doing this task, please see me. The best times to come in are from 1:55-2:40 (our special area time) or before school. Thanks so much! ☺

This week: This week we have concentrated on learning our first grade daily routine. The children visited different literacy centers and learned the rules in each center. We also did different math activities to include, addition, subtraction, patterns, tally marks and sorting. Ask the children to tell you about the name sorting graph. We have worked on proper punctuation when writing, as a class, as well as in journals. The children write in their journals everyday on various topics. Starting next week, the children will bring home a notebook labeled "Letters to Parents". Please write them a little note after you read their notes. Send this back to school every Monday. On a daily basis, I read to the children from a chapter book. Currently, I am reading "Lucy on the Loose". I am also beginning to test the children so that I can place them in guided reading groups. They will be placed by late next week and we will begin our reading groups. In the meantime (and always), please read at home with your child every night. On August 25, the children will begin to bring home a bag of books. They will need to read from this bag every night and bring them back to school every day.

Next week: As an extra special treat (In addition to the treasure box), I am going to invite any of the children that remain on green circle all week to have lunch with me in the classroom on Fridays. The children are all very excited about this opportunity. Lastly, we will continue to work on mastering the standards for the first nine weeks (look in your class handbook for standards broken down by each 9 weeks) by doing daily assignments and activities in math, reading and language arts, science, social studies and health. The children received their math, social studies, and science and health books this week. Next week we will begin to work from each book.

Reminders: Do not forget to look in the hall to see my timeline. I am anxious to see all of the children's timelines too. Remember that they are due by October 8 (they can be turned in sooner☺). Remember to send in a water bottle for your child to keep in his/her desk. I only ask that you replace them once a week to help keep the germs away. ☺ The children may not come in the classroom until 8:15 every morning. I may be running errands or getting ready for the day. They are welcome to wait in the cafeteria. Any papers that I send home with a check or a star may stay at home. If the paper has notes or circled areas, please have your child correct it and bring back to school. Thanks

A special "**Thank you**" to each parent who has helped me over the last two weeks with various tasks; I greatly appreciate all you have done! ☺

Have a great weekend! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please see me or schedule a time for a conference.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Tammy Ashley