

Thursday, August 15th, 2013

Dear First Grade Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I am looking forward to many more wonderful days throughout the year! In the next couple of weeks I will be posting on the webpage/sending home various letters explaining how things are done in our Classroom. I am really trying to move away from that 'hard copy' 'paper in hand' generation. So if you don't have computer access PLEASE let me know and I will make sure you receive a hard copy. Please take the time to read the information and if you have questions just jot them down or email me: Janis.goeden@k12.sd.us I will try to be prompt with my emails, but on many days I don't get to respond to them until after school.

6 Day Schedule/Rotation

I will post on the website our *6 day schedule/rotation*. I have enjoyed the 6 day schedule because it allows for larger amounts of uninterrupted time in the day to teach your children writing skills; incorporating phonics, spelling, word families into their writing; listening to students use their reading strategies and checking for oral comprehension; and daily, as well as, seasonal journal writings!

Specials Schedule for 6 Day Rotation

Day 1: Library and Computer Class *Don't forget your library book!*

Day 2: Guidance and P.E. *GYM SHOES needed*

Day 3: Music and Art

Day 4: learn.com

Day 5: SuccessMaker and Music

Day 6: SuccessMaker and P.E. *GYM SHOES needed*

Just a quick reminder that when we have a no school day or snow day the scheduled day gets bumped to the next in session school day. The Specials Schedule can be found on the website and in the *Daily Purple Take Home Folder*.

Daily Purple Take Home Folder

The *Daily Purple Take Home Folder* is a folder that will (should) come home every night and be returned to me every morning. Please send notes, bus changes, lunch money, etc. to school via this folder. This is a plastic folder and should last the whole year so try to be kind to it. You will also find some important resources in the purple folder. There is a Hundred (100) chart, a Subtraction chart, an Addition chart, and the eight (8) reading strategies to refer to when your child is reading at home.

(over)

Homework~ Read Every Day

The main thing I would like you to focus on for 'Homework' right now is **READING**. In the *Daily Purple Take Home Folder* is a **Read Every Day** chart with *Cat in the Hat* on it. After you have read to your child or your child reads to you, just initial the box and when the chart is full return it to school. We have Panther Power Library books at school that rotate among just the first grade classrooms. The students pick a book of their choice out of the tub, take it home, you read it to them or they read it to you and then they return it and pick out another book. You will see the Panther Power label on the books when they come home. The students will also be checking out 1 library book to bring home, as well. If there is a book from our classroom library that they would like to take home to share, that is okay too. All the books are labeled and have my name on them so you will know it is mine if it gets misplaced.

Spelling Words, Vocabulary, High Frequency Words

Weekly spelling words and spelling tests are new to our first graders. However, you are more than welcome to start going over these words, vocabulary words, and high frequency words with your child. These words should look similar to the 'Popcorn Words' of Kindergarten. Our spelling words are no surprise to our students and as you look over them you can see that these are words that we use every day in writing, reading, and speaking and the lists are organized according to a phonetic rule. We watch closely in 1st grade to see that our students are not only spelling words correctly on the spelling test, but more importantly that they are using and spelling the words correctly in their writing; stories, journal entries, sentences, etc.

We use the phrase "If I know this word then I can also spell or read this word."

Example: "If I know the word cat, then I know the word hat because of the chunk 'at' in both words." Then we will develop that saying into bigger words such as, "If I know the word 'or' then I know the word 'porch' and 'orchard'." So, please, go ahead and start working with your child on the spelling words, vocabulary words, and high frequency words and making such connections; (that word looks like another word I know or I see such and such chunk or chunks in words). These lists will be posted on the website.

Watch for additional letters explaining: Pizza Hut reading incentive program, Panther Reading, RtI, Scholastic Book Club, discipline, 'Shadow' our classroom pet and lots more!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Janis Goeden

1st Grade Teacher

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