



# The Fabulous First Grade

Ms. Tantillo, Ms. Moore, Ms. Granieri, Ms. Reardon, Ms. DiMarco,  
Ms. LaGrotta, Ms. Sims and Mr. G



## Parent Newsletter – February 2020

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

#### Literacy:

**Word Study** – In February, students will be introduced to the difference between a blend and a digraph, suffix –s, r–controlled vowel sounds, vowel team sounds, and opened and closed syllables. They will continue to learn and read high–frequency words in context.

*There is a spelling test at the end of each week. Students are responsible for knowing previous weeks and current week words!! Parents are to sign and return test on Monday.*

**Reading Workshop** – February theme: “Arthur” author study. Students will continue to work on story elements (beginning, middle, end, character, setting, sequencing events, problem, solution).

**This can also be practiced at home while reading with your child.**

\*Please continue to read daily with your child – encourage him/her to use print strategies to figure out difficult words, retell the story in sequence (beginning, middle, end) using temporal words (first, next, then and last) and ask questions about the text.

**Writing Workshop** – Writers will use what they learn in literacy to write letters.

#### Technology:

During the month of February, your child will be focusing on both keyboarding and mouse skills as well as proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed.

### What’s New in Performing Arts?

**Ms. Elliot:** First Grade students are finishing up their very own Musical Instrument Books! They have learned all about each instrument family and how they all produce sound differently. They also know what they all look and sound like! We will continue to listen and learn about different sounds and styles of music.

**Ms. Granatelli (332):** During the month of *February* students will focus on drawing, painting and collage.

**Ms. LaGrotta (332):** During dance class in February, first grade classes will be continuing identifying and demonstrating isolated dance moves of various body parts, locomotor and non-locomotor movements, and dancing with different tempos and rhythms.

#### Math:

Module 3 – Ordering and Comparing Length Measurements as Numbers. Topics include: Indirect Comparison in Length Measurement, Standard Length Units, Non-Standard and Standard Length Units, and Data Interpretation.

*Much of the new Common Core Math Curriculum focuses on math talk. When doing math homework have your child explain their steps and give reasons for what they do to solve the problem.*

It is important that students start learning their math addition facts to 20 by rote. They should start by learning their doubles facts and ways to make 10 facts.

Continue working with your child recognizing their numbers up to 100.

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

2/14 – 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

2/17 – 2/21 – Midwinter Recess– No School

#### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please check your child’s red dot notebook for nightly homework and notices.
- Please sign your child’s homework.
- It is very important **not** to go ahead in workbooks as homework reflects work completed in class.
- **When your child is absent, he/she is responsible for work missed and homework assigned. Please check the weekly homework handout in their red dot notebook.**
- Red folders, red dot notebooks and math books should be returned to school everyday.
- Any notes/letters to your child’s teacher should **not** be written in their red dot notebooks. Please write on a separate paper.
- Please be aware that first grade students are responsible for unpacking/packing their supplies. Encourage the same at home.
- Students should be reading 20 minutes each night.
- Please make sure your child has **3** sharpened pencils to use each day.
- Dress your child appropriately for the weather. Keep in mind that our classrooms get warm, but it is getting cooler outside, so layering works best.
- As always, please label your child’s clothing and lunch boxes so they can be returned in case they get misplaced.
- Remember to complete “Six Flags Read to Succeed” reading log. These are due **April 17, 2020.**

#### PTA News

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Pretzels for Panthers

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Sweetheart Dance, 2-5pm

February 12<sup>th</sup> – PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

*“All of the top achievers I know are life-long learners. Looking for new skills, insights, and ideas. If they’re not learning, they’re not growing and not moving toward excellence.”*

---Denis Wartley

#### A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

February certainly brings about thoughts of love and happiness—and I truly LOVE Petrides and all of our families. Thank you for your continued support and for volunteering your time in our school, it really makes our school such a special place. Last month, our Kindergarten cuties walked the runway at the Fashion Show modeling their most adorable outfits. Thank you to the PTA for coordinating this awesome event. Please take note of all of the upcoming events planned for this month. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at [JCaputo9@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JCaputo9@schools.nyc.gov).

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ponzi

