

# The Fabulous First Grade

Ms. Tantillo, Ms. Sims, Ms. Moore, Ms. R. Bollini and Mr. G

## Parent Newsletter – January 2018

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

#### Literacy:

**Word Study** - In December students will continue the sound associations for the long vowels. Students will identify words with long vowel sounds. 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**- January theme: animals in winter. Students will read information texts in search of answers to questions.

Social Studies content is taught through literacy. Learners will explore a variety of informational texts while asking and answering questions.

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 and ask questions about the text. Encourage your child to read more non-fiction. These books can be about true events and real people or animals.

**Writing Workshop** - Writers will create one information piece on a topic.

#### Math:

**Unit 5** - Developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20.

Domain: **Operations and Algebraic Thinking**: Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.

**Unit 6** - Developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones.

Domain: Number and Operations in Base Ten: extend the counting sequence.

*Much of the new Common Core Math Curriculum focuses on math talk. When doing math homework have your child explain his steps and give reasons for what he does to solve the problem using the math vocabulary for the unit.*

\*\* Think Central has resources for your child. This is especially useful when your child is absent from school.

*"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."*  
~John Dewey

#### Technology:

Your child will continue practicing their keyboarding and mouse skills, typing, resources used for research, and proper use of the Internet. 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. In the month of January we will be focusing primarily on mouse and keyboarding skills.

#### What's New in Music and Art?

**Ms. LaMorte:** Students will analyze music (Major/Minor/Duple/Triple), learn/sing about Dr. Martin Luther King (work in singing groups), and study pieces for upcoming play.

**Ms. Eliot:** Students will revisit some favorite songs to review rhythms and movements with music.

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

1/1 - Happy New Year! No school

1/2 - School resumes

1/15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

1/17 - PAWS Awards, 6:30pm

1/17 - PTA General Interest Meeting, 7:00pm

#### 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.
- 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.
- Please continue with donations of tissues and wipes for the classroom. They are appreciated!
- Remember to complete "Six Flags Read to Succeed" reading log. These are due **February 15, 2018.**
- **\*\*\*Check our instagram and twitter pages:**  
Twitter - @PetridesSchool  
Instagram - mjpetrides school

### Social Emotional Learning Curriculum

This year, we are rolling out Sanford Harmony Curriculum, a Social Emotional teaching program that cultivates strong classroom relationships between all students. It allows students to communicate, cooperate, connect, embrace diversity, and resolve conflict with their teachers and peers. Our elementary school students are really enjoying their "Meet up and Buddy Up" time during the day. During the month of January, students will be immersed in the Diversity and Inclusion Unit where they will promote an inclusive environment and a common classroom identity. Students will be provided opportunities to get to know each other and taught to recognize and appreciate each other's similarities and differences. Students will develop a common classroom identity by working together to develop a classroom name and motto.

### A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! So many fabulous things happened here at Petrides in 2017 and I thank each and every one of you for your continued support. The building was filled with parents in December for holiday workshops and shopping at the fair. Please continue to join us at upcoming Parents as Partners events in the New Year. We look forward to an even better 2018!

Please continue to dress your child for the changing of the seasons, as we are committed to sending the children outside for recess, weather permitting. Thank you for all that you do and we are looking forward to a happy and healthy New Year with you all.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ponzi

**Happy  
New Year!**

