

# The Fabulous First Grade

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

## Parent Newsletter – November 2019

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

#### Literacy:

**Word Study** – Students were introduced to our new word study program “Foundations” in October. In November, students will be introduced to digraphs and the bonus letter rule.

*Each week new sight words and high frequency words will be introduced. There is a spelling test at the end of each week. Students are responsible for knowing previous weeks and current week words!!*

**Reading Workshop** – November theme: students will continue to read nonfiction books.

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.

**Social Studies** – November theme: Families, Now and Long Ago. Readers will read about life long ago and how families have a past and change over time.

**Writing Workshop** – Writers will write an informational piece using facts learned in class.

In writing, students should continue to work on letter formation, using capitals and punctuations correctly, and finger spacing between words.

#### Math:

Module 2 – Student will be introduced to Place Value Through Addition and Subtraction Within 20.



### PTA News

Hi families! Thank you for attending movie night and Trunk or Treat!

PTA Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We will be voting on Early Childhood VP position.

Bowling with the Panthers – Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm-4:00pm. \$15 per person includes bowling, shoes, pizza, and drink.

Pretzels for Panthers is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

*“Children need models rather than critics.”*  
-- Joseph Joubert

### A Note From Ms. Ponzi

Dear Families,

November is a month to give thanks! I am so thankful for all of the parents who have supported our children so far this school year. We would like to say a big thank you to our PTA who organized this year’s Halloween event “Trunk or Treat” for our Elementary School students.

This month we will be celebrating the importance of reading here at school, but reading at home is very important too. The benefits of independent reading include improved vocabulary, verbal fluency, and enhanced general academic achievement. Please be sure that your child is practicing reading nightly and reading books that are on their independent reading level.

As Dr. Seuss says, “The more you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you will go.” I cannot wait to see all the places our children will go.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ponzi



#### Technology:

During the month of November, 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. Eliot:** Students will learn about the different instruments in an orchestra and explore the works of different composers.

**Ms. Granatelli (332):** During the month of November, students will learn how to create a collage. All art materials are provided in class.

**Ms. LaGrotta (332):** During dance class in November, 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. We will begin working on our alphabet unit, which allows the students to be creative and make the letters of the alphabet with their body!

#### \*IMPORTANT DATES

11/5 – Election Day, No School for Students

11/11 – Veteran’s Day, No School

11/13 – Report Cards Distributed

11/14 – Half day of school, 11:20am dismissal

Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences: 12:20pm – 2:20pm

Evening Parent Teacher Conferences: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

11/20 – PTA Meeting, 6:30pm

11/28 & 11/29 – Thanksgiving Recess

#### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please sign your child’s homework every night.
- Please check your child’s red dot notebook for nightly homework and school notices.
- 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 notebook. Please write on a separate paper.
- All monies should be in a sealed envelope labeled with your child’s name.
- Please be aware that in first grade students are responsible for unpacking/packing their supplies. Encourage your child to unpack their red folders, red dot notebooks and math book. Discuss what homework is assigned for the evening.
- You and your child should be reading for 20 minutes each night.
- Dress your child appropriately for the weather. Keeping in mind that our classrooms get warm, but that it is getting cooler outside, 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 you have Zearn Math as a resource for your child. This is a valuable tool and contains resources that your child can participate in.