

# The Fabulous First Grade

Ms. Tantillo, Ms. Reardon, Ms. Moore, Ms. King and Mr. G

## Parent Newsletter – January 2019

### 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: dinosaurs. Students will read information texts in search of answers to questions, use text features when reading informational text and identify the main topic and retell details of a text.

Science: Animals. Students will learn how dinosaurs are alike and different.

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 write a question and answer piece about dinosaurs.

#### Math:

**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.

#### Technology:

During the month of January, 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 Music and Art?

**Ms. LaMorte:** Students will apply proper singing techniques with 8 new songs, analyze music for tonality and meter, and discuss/apply new year and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. song with motions.

**Ms. Granatelli:** During the month of January, art students are learning how to draw and paint winter landscapes. Class 332 continues to explore drawing and painting.

**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 - First day back to school from Winter Break.

1/16 - PAWS Awards, 6:30pm

1/16 - PTA General Membership Meeting, 7:00pm

1/21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - 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. This includes the four (4) math pages before the assigned homework pages.
- 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!

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

#### PTA News

The PTA would like to thank everyone that came and supported our holiday fair. Please join us this month for PTA meeting January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kindergarten Fashion Show on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

#### 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 2018 and I thank each and every one of you for your continued support. The building was filled with parents in December for holiday workshops, shopping at the fair and singing holiday songs. Please continue to join us at upcoming Parents as Partners events in the New Year. We look forward to an even better 2019!

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!