



The Fabulous First Grade

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



Parent Newsletter – March 2017

WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

Literacy:

Word Study – In March, we will be studying r-controlled vowels, vowel digraphs, possessives, prefixes and suffixes.

Reading Workshop– In March, we will be studying unit 5: Observing the Messages of the Natural World. Readers will identify describing words and phrases and key details in various texts.

Learners will explore content to understand how to compare messages about the natural world in literary text with information about the natural world in nonfiction text. Writers understand that narrative texts are sequenced events that include a conclusion with some sense of closure.

*Please continue to read daily with your child – discussing vocabulary, characters, setting, problem, solution, retelling in sequence, and characters’ feelings.

Writing Workshop – Module A: Writers will use what they learn in literary and informational texts to create a narrative. Writers will use time order to sequence events.

Math:

Unit 7 – Developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones.

Domain: Operations and Algebraic Thinking – Numbers and Operations in Base Ten. in Base Ten.

Unit 8 – Developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones.

Domain: Operations and Algebraic Thinking – Number and Operations in Base Ten.

Technology:

During the month of March your child will continue to focus 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 learn names, meanings and proper hold/play of the Orff Barred Instruments, 3 friendship songs, harmonic concepts with partner songs, analyze music, and tonal and rhythm skill development.

Mr. Cintula (Class 332): Students are reading through arts themed stories, analyzing vocabulary and viewing short films based on the books, followed with a discussion of the characters and the plot of the story.

Ms. Eliot: Students will identify and demonstrate movement elements and skills (such as bend, twist, slide, skip, hop) with music and dance.

*IMPORTANT DATES

3/2 – First Grade Performance, “Bedtime Stories”

3/8 – Report Cards Distributed

3/8 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 5–8pm

3/9 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:20–2:20pm – Half day of school for students

3/10 – PTA Annual Basket Auction – You will have to be in it to win it!

3/15 – PTA Meeting, 7pm

3/16 – Jazz Night

3/17 – Happy St. Patrick’s Day – Wear Green!

3/24 & 3/25 – Spring Musical, “When in Rome”

News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please check your child’s red dot notebook for night homework and notices. Remember to sign their homework.
- It is very important **not** to go ahead in workbooks as homework reflects work completed in class. Please check your child’s homework. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any concerns with homework.
- **Red folders, red dot notebooks and math books should be returned to school everyday!**
- 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. Children will be going outside for recess, weather permitting.
- As always, please label your child’s clothing and lunch boxes so they can be returned if misplaced.
- Please continue with donations of tissues and wipes for the classroom. They are appreciated!



PTA News

Our Annual Night of Chances will be held on Friday, 3/10. Raffle ticket bundles are now on sale. We are still collecting \$5 donations from Petrides families to help purchase baskets.

Save the date for our Rock em Sock em fundraiser on 3/31.

Our next PTA meetina will be Wednesday. 3/15 at 7pm

A Note From Ms. Caccese

Dear Families,

It’s hard to believe we are already in March...time flies when you’re having fun at Petrides and we sure have been having a lot of it!! 100th day activities brought lots of joy to lots of classrooms, we had a movie day experience right in our own auditorium and many thanks to the families who participated in the PTA’s Thank Heaven for Little Girls Dance! These are the things that make Petrides such a special place.

Something else that should be highlighted are the many awesome events that took place during Respect For All Week here at Petrides. Students took an anti-bullying pledge, wrote out hearts of encouragement to classmates and spread happiness all around the building with our Share a Smile Campaign. We encourage our kiddies to spread the love all over the world too and that starts here at Petrides...let us all take time to share a smile in our communities, in our homes and in our school!!

Warm Wishes,
Ms. Caccese

As part of our ongoing efforts to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing of all students we are sending this important information about Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to all parents this month.

Many parents are aware that ADHD is a common childhood mental health condition, and most parents recognize the importance of staying focused at home and at school. Parents should also understand that it is perfectly normal for children to show inattention, distractibility, impulsivity or hyperactivity at times, this is part of every child's healthy development.

However, if you are concerned that these behaviors are impacting your child's performance at school or creating problems at home you should consider seeking professional help. Recent surveys show that approximately 11% of children have been diagnosed with ADHD and the average age of diagnosis is 7 years of age. Studies have also found that students with ADHD had persistent difficulties that resulted in lower average grades, more failed grades, more disciplinary problems, increased dropout rates, and a lower rate of college undergraduate completion. Several approaches have been shown to be effective for treating ADHD including behavior therapy and medication. Recent advancements in behavior therapy mean that many children, especially young children, can make significant improvements without medication.

Please see below for common signs and symptoms that can help you identify if your child is experiencing ADHD as well links to some additional online resources. As always parents are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult in the school with any concerns about their child's mental health. We are all here to help and we can connect you with local treatment providers when needed.

Common signs and symptoms of ADHD:

- Is easily distracted
- Doesn't seem to be listening when spoken to directly
- Has difficulty following instructions
- Has trouble organizing
- Avoids or dislikes sustained effort
- Is forgetful, always losing things
- Fidgeting or squirming, trouble staying in one place or waiting
- Trouble playing quietly
- Extreme impatience
- Always seems to be "on the go" or "driven by a motor"
- Excessive talking or interrupting, blurting out answers

Additional online resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control ADHD website](#): Includes basic information about ADHD such as common symptoms, statistics and treatment recommendations
- [Mayo Clinic ADHD Health Information page](#): Patient friendly information about ADHD including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and Self-management
- [NYC Well](#): Local resource where you can chat with a specialist and get a referral to a local specialist who can provide treatment