



# October Newsletter 2018

## Where Is The Time Going?!?

How can this fall be flying by so quickly?!?! Our days here in first grade are busy and filled with lots of work and learning time, but we are also having SO MUCH FUN together! Tons of smiles, laughs and an all-around good time. I'm LOVING working with this class!!

## Fundations

Our first unit focused on correct letter formation. When writing with your child at home, please remind them to form their letters how they have learned in Fundations. *\*A hint for working on letter formation with your child at home: all letters will begin from the top (sky or plane line) and go down, no letters should be formed from the bottom (grass or worm line) and go up.* We are finishing our second unit this week, which focused on tapping out sounds of words. Students are enjoying challenging themselves to tap out and spell 3, 4 and even 5 letters words on their magnetic boards and dry erase boards. The unit two assessment will be sent home soon. Please note any areas that your child should continue to review at home. As we begin our third unit, students will be introduced to digraphs or "H Brothers" (th, ch, sh, wh). Digraphs are two letters, combined to make a brand new sound. The trick words that students have been introduced to in unit 1 & 2 of Fundations include: *the, a, and, is, his, of.* Through Unit 3, we will be adding up the trick words: *as, has, to, into, we, he, she, be, me, for, or.* Once these words are introduced in Fundations and added to our word wall, we expect it to be read **and written** correctly. Please keep track of these words and review reading and writing them at home with your child.

## Math

Later this month we will move on from 2D shapes and their attributes to begin studying 3D shapes...their names, attributes and where in the classroom or "real life" we can see these shapes. Students will learn a fun 3D shapes chant to help them remember the tricky names and attributes to the shapes. Our sorting skills are getting more challenging now, as students are practicing combination sorts (sorting by a few attributes at once). Students are doing great counting by 1's well over 100. We're still reviewing counting backwards from 20-0 and counting forwards by 2s, 5s and by 10s. We have had lots of fun playing games to begin memorizing  $\pm 0$ ,  $\pm 1$  and  $\pm 2$  facts. When adding number combinations that are not yet memorized, students should always begin by putting the larger number in their head, then counting on the smaller number. This month students will be introduced to the concept "doubles" and will work on solving those addition facts (2+2, 5+5, 8+8, etc). Students are working hard on both addition and subtraction number stories, solving various ways (beginning-middle-end diagram, part-part-whole diagram, number bond diagram, drawing pictures, recording equations and algorithms, using tens frames, tally marks, etc). Place value is another skill we have spent much time on this month. Students are understanding what a number is made of (for example, the number 27 is made up of 2 tens and 7 ones) and also the expanded form of numbers (for example, the expanded form of 27 is  $20+7=27$ ).

## Writer's Workshop

We are almost done with our first unit of writing: Small Moments Writing. In this first writing unit, students have learned to choose a small moment story from their lives (something they do or that has happened to them) to plan, write and illustrate across several pages. The most challenging aspect of this unit for first graders is to understand the concept of a small moment verses telling a long narrative story (for example, the one really scary part of the roller coaster verses telling/writing about the entire day at Story Land). We have spent much time teaching students to go back and revise their writing to include details such as who, what, where, when, why and how. Students have had fun beginning to use "pop" words in their writing...any type of feelings, emotions or sound words, helping to enhance their writing, making it more exciting to read or hear. In addition to our Small Moments writing, students LOVE preparing their Friday Family Journals to take home each week. I hope these journals give you a glimpse into your child's week and gives you both some talking points about their school week.

## Reader's Workshop

What readers we have in this classroom!! We almost finished with our first reading unit: Reader's Build Good Habits. This unit focused on what habits good readers have, how to be a good reading partner and habits (strategies) for solving hard words. To finish the unit, students will set a goal for themselves, focusing on one of the habits they learned (listed below) that they feel they need to strengthen throughout the next unit. We are excited to continue our reading progress and will soon begin our new reading unit: Word Detectives. This unit will focus on further developing decoding strategies and strengthening students' word solving strategies. Below are the habits your child learned in this first reading unit, that you can review and use when reading with your child at home.

Reader's Build Good Habits	Reading Partners	Good Habits for Solving Tricky Words
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Take a sneak peek at the beginning.</li><li>- Check your sneak peek.</li><li>- Do something at the end of the book (reread, retell, talk about the book, etc)</li><li>- Read more and more!</li><li>- Read more and more and keep track of how much you read.</li><li>- Set reading goals for yourself.</li><li>- Reread to smooth out your voice.</li><li>- Reread to see or understand more in your text.</li><li>- Scoop up words in phrase.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Work as a team.</li><li>- Read together.</li><li>- Build good habits together.</li><li>- Give reminders to each other.</li><li>- Grow ideas together.</li><li>- Give book introductions to each other.</li><li>- Don't just tell answers...help each other figure it out!</li><li>- Do something at the end of the book (talk about it together, etc).</li><li>- Types of partner reading: see-saw, choral, echo)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Check the picture.</li><li>- Look at all parts of the word (especially the ending!).</li><li>- Get a running start and reread the whole sentence.</li><li>- Check the tricky word, then do a double check!</li><li>- Try vowels two way (2 sounds).</li></ul>

## Homework

Ready or not, it's homework time! New math homework packets will be sent home every Friday, starting Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>. These packets will review concepts and skills students have been introduced to in the classroom. Please remember, these math packets should not create more stress for you or your first grader...while completing them will provide good review practice, they are entirely optional. If you and your child choose to complete part of or all of a packet, feel free to send it back in to school for a sticker! ☺

Reading folders will start coming home on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be coming home nightly with a few books your child has selected from their reading box. **It's ok if your child chooses to bring a book home more than once. Rereading texts helps students develop fluency and expression.** Please don't forget to also include in your nightly homework routines a review of addition and subtraction flashcards, as they are sent home.

## **Halloween**

We are looking forward to celebrating Halloween here at Centre School! Our celebration will be on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Students should bring their costumes to school in a bag, **students should not wear their costumes to school**. Come watch classes parade that afternoon around our school (\*time of parade will be sent home as the date approaches). We will be "marching" in front of the school. Following the parade, students will enjoy a holiday snack in our classroom (\*sign up link will be emailed in the coming days). It's should be a "thrilling" day!! ☺

## **Extra Clothes**

If you haven't done so already, please send in an extra set of clothes for your first grader. These extra clothes can be stored in their backpack or in a plastic bag labeled with your student's name in their cubby. It is often helpful to have an extra set of clothes on hand here in the classroom in case students have bathroom accidents, spill food/drink on themselves, get wet at recess, etc.

## **Important Dates**

Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> ~ All School Meeting in our Gym

Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> ~ No School, Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Zones of Regulation Presentation in our Library

Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Walk to Fire Station

Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ "One" Anti-Bullying Presentation in our Library

Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> ~ Halloween Parade & Classroom Snack

Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Grade 1 walks to Lane Memorial Library

Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Veteran's Day Program for students

Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> ~ No School - Veteran's Day

Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Picture Retake Day

Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> ~ Sharing Assembly for students in our Gym

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>th</sup> ~ No School - Thanksgiving Break