



Mrs. Carpenter's Class

First Grade
Information Packet
2014-2015

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Everyday Information:

Daily Mail:

- Your child should always have their folder in their backpack. Check for mail every night please!
- Most mail will be distributed daily and sent home in your child's folder so that students can have immediate feedback on assignments and homework.
- Absent students will receive assignments in their mailbox as well. Please let me know of advance absences, so I can send home a vacation journal and extra books!

Communication:

- You will get a majority of the communication through email, from me and from Creekside.
- I will send a weekly/bi-weekly email of updates from our classroom.
- If you don't check your email **daily**, or if this isn't convenient for you, please let me know.

Snack

- Our class will be having a snack every morning at about 10:20am with an *optional* snack in the afternoon at about 1:30. First grade eats lunch at 11:55am, so they have about 4 hours between lunch and when they get home to have a snack. I feel that a small snack in the afternoon will help keep them stay alert and ready to learn until the end of the day!
- Please send in 1-2 quick, healthy snacks (fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers, etc.) **everyday** that is separate from their lunchbox.
- Please do not send in sweets, candy, lunchables, sandwiches, etc. for snack.

Homework

- Read, Read, Read!
- Each month, a reading calendar will come home. Please help your child use this calendar to track when/how often they read. Goals, with incentives are also a great way to help encourage your child to track their reading on this calendar. These calendars are due the first week of each month.
- Your child will be bringing home five self-selected books that are at their **independent** level each week.
- Practice word wall words, math facts, and independent writing.
- If there is "official" homework, I will attach a note or email you to let you know.

Behavior and Management

- Our Classroom Promise incorporates all of the “rules” in our class. The students are held accountable for all parts of our promise. The promise will be made by the class in the first week of school. It often includes statements like “We promise to be nice to each other. We promise to listen to the speaker and follow directions. We promise to try our best.” After we create our classroom promise, I will send a copy of it home so you know what our “rules” are.
- Our classroom utilizes a clip chart that looks like this:



Each day, all students start at green - “Ready to Learn.” They can move up to yellow - “Great Job,” to orange - “You Rock,” and finally to red - “Outstanding.”

If your child moves their clip up to Red, they get to choose a prize and bring home an award for Outstanding Behavior.

Your child may also be asked to move their clip down to: blue - “Think about it,” purple - “Consequence,” and finally, pink - “Parent Contact.”

If your child reaches “Parent Contact,” they will bring home a “Parent Contact Think Sheet” and you will receive some other sort of communication from me.

- If your child needs a little extra help with acceptable classroom behavior, then we will set up an individual plan!
- Eventually our class will be working toward class goals (quiet in the hallway, listening to directions the first time given, etc.) When these goals are met, they will be able to earn a reward (extra recess, pajama day, ice cream party, etc).

Dismissal

- If you need to make special arrangements on a particular day, please send a note to school with your child.
- If I do not receive a note from you, it is school policy that I send your child home the way he/she normally goes home.
- Monday - Thursday, dismissal is at 3:50pm. Please try your best not to pick your child up early. We are learning right up until the end of the day!
- Friday dismissal is at 2:50.

Birthdays

- You are more than welcome to send in a birthday treat on your child's birthday to help us celebrate!
- Please let me know a few days in advance, so I can plan accordingly.
- If your child's birthday is in the summer, we will celebrate their birthday on their half-birthday or in June.

Classroom Celebrations

- Google-docs will be sent home via email for sign-ups for our celebrations! We will celebrate:
 - Halloween
 - Winter Holidays
 - Valentines Day (Friendship day as a class - no parent volunteers)
 - End of the year!

Volunteers

- Volunteers are a much needed and welcomed part of our classroom!
- When our classroom is in need of volunteers I will contact you with a note and/or google document.
- Our monthly PTO meetings are the first Thursday of every month. Childcare is available and the meetings only last one hour. This is a great way to get involved and find out what's happening at Creekside. Please come!
- The copy room is a vital part of our school; it allows teachers to focus on teaching. Please consider sharing your time here, too!

Learning to tie a shoe!

- First graders must learn to tie their own shoes!
- This is a skill that needs to be taught and practiced at home please!
- You can teach the "Two Bunny Ears" or "Loop, Swoop, and Pull" technique. I will insist they try first, ask three friends, and then I will help them out.

Conferences/Report Cards

- Parent/Teacher conferences are held in November and March.
- Report Cards are given in January, March, and June.

Celebrity Student

- To begin the school year, each child will have a chance to be Celebrity of the Day.

- The rest of the students will fill in an interview about the Celebrity of the Day to be added to their own "celebrity book".
- I believe highlighting individual students builds a strong classroom community.
- After all students have been a celebrity for a day, they will have another chance to be the celebrity again where different activities will take place. A letter regarding this will come home the week before they are the celebrity.

Mystery Readers

- Each Friday from 1:00-1:20 we will have a mystery reader join us to read a book of their choice to the children.
- A google document will come home the first week of school to sign up for this if you are interested.
- The mystery reader will provide 3 clues about themselves that the students will hear the morning of the mystery reader.

Scholastic

- Each month a scholastic book order will come home.
- Orders should be made online at www.scholastic.com/readingclub
- Our class activation code is H34F8
- Every order placed online will help us earn new books for our classroom library.

Field trips

- We will go on several field trips this year! More information regarding specific trip details and chaperone needs will be sent home prior to each trip.

Memory books

- Periodically, we will save children's work throughout the school year. Work will later be compiled into scrapbooks to create a wonderful keepsake of 1st grade.

Character Development

- School-wide, we will have character development words of the month that reinforce our theme of reason, respect, and responsibility. We will have conversations about the word of the month, read books related to the theme, and participate in activities. We will also continue to discuss the importance of bucket-filling - being kind to both others and ourselves.

Our Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule is subject to change, but will look something like this:

Check-In/Morning Work
Morning Meeting/Calendar
Power Block
Snack
Writing Workshop
Recess/Lunch
Math
Science or Social Studies
Snack/Chapter Book/Recess
Reading Workshop
Pack up
Essential (art/gym/music/library)
Go Home 😊

Curriculum Information

Reading is the foundation for and predictor of a child's future academic success.

A child who is not reading at grade level average at the end of first grade has only a 50% chance of reaching grade level average at the end of second grade.

Children typically move up one reading level a month. Your child's goal is to reach level J books by June. Each book your child brings home should have a level on the back cover.

Reading Workshop

- Each day we will have Reading Workshop for about 50 minutes in the morning.
- I will be conducting Guided Reading groups during this time. This is where they will learn reading strategies and practice reading books that are just above their independent level with me in a small group.
- Your child will read "just right books" during independent reading time and (later in the year) with a partner.
- Your child will learn independence and self-monitoring during this time.
- Learning to stay on task without the teacher right there can be challenging, and it may take some children some time to get used to this responsibility.

Guided Reading Books

- Your child will work on a book with me in their guided reading group.
- Once this book is a familiar text for your child, it will come home in a plastic envelope.
- Please have your child read the book that night and return it the NEXT day.
- The sooner the book is returned the sooner your child will get a new one.
- There is a \$10 charge for each lost book.

Self Selected Book Bag

- Your child will also get to choose five "just right" books to bring home every Monday. These books are at their level, I will tell them where to "shop" from.
- These books will come home in a Dr. Seuss bag labeled "My Weekly Books."
- Please return these books on Friday so I can put the books back and get ready for them to shop again on Monday.
- We haven't worked on these books together, so it may be a bit hard or a bit easy.
- There is a \$10 charge for each lost book.

Writing Workshop

- We will have writing workshop everyday.
- We use children's (inventive) spelling and the word wall to produce our best writing. I do not check student's work for spelling errors unless the word is on the Word Wall and I *know* they know it.
- I will send home their writing monthly.
- Please talk with your child about short story ideas.

Math - Here are some of the goals we will be working towards:

- Fluently subtract and add problems - 20 is the highest sum they will reach and take away from.
- Skip count by 2's, 5's, and 10's.
- Understand pictographs and organizing information.
- Read and write numbers to 110.
- Learn to tell time to the hour and half hour.
- Place values (ones, tens, hundreds)
- Work with money. Adding and subtracting money in dollars only or cents only.
- Adding 3 single digit numbers ($3+2+1=$)
- Missing number addition and subtraction ($5+__=7$)

Science - Here are some of the goals we will be working towards:

- Learn about weather changes and solar energy
- Learn about the properties of matter (solid, liquid, gas)
- Learn about how magnets can repel or attract other magnets.
- Demonstrate an understanding of plant and butterfly life-cycles.
- Understand the needs of animals and the importance of Earth materials.

Social Studies - Here are some of the goals we will be working towards:

- Discuss why we have rules and who is a good citizen.
- Focus on character words of the month.
- Understand goods and services. Sequence the process of marketing apples from growth to consumption.
- Study important people and events in history, focusing on National holidays.
- Discuss the past, present, and future.
- Look at communities and learn about maps and directions.
- Learn about some of our U.S. symbols.