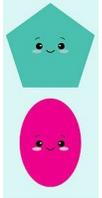


First Grade

APRIL

Hello First Grade
Parents,



April is full of special activities for first grade. We have been very busy delving into everything from insects to shapes and even time and money. Thursday the 12th and Friday the 13th of April are both minimum



days as we begin the 3rd quarter conferences. I will be posting conference times outside the door on Wednesday as a reminder.

April will be a busy month academically for us as well. We will continue to explore money and time in math. We will continue to focus on plane, solid figures, and explore geometric transformations in math. Our exploration of social studies will be tying into Earth Day as we look at our planets resources, recycling, and preserving habitats for



plants and animals.



Our scientific study of insects will continue in the month of April as we take a closer look at insects, arachnids, and other arthropods. The children are very excited to continue looking at insects and learning how they benefit from our gardens and, more importantly, our planet.

As we continue into the season of Easter, I am working with the children on the importance of prayer during this time--praying not only as a way to thank God for all he has given us but as a way to become closer to God and understand His great love for us. The children understand that God sacrificed his only son for us to show how much he loves us and that small sacrifices we made during Lent, like giving up any incentives for good deeds, bring us closer to God. The focus of our study in religion will begin to concentrate on Jesus' time with the disciples after the Resurrection and on the arrival of the Holy Spirit to help the church grow.



Our reading skills are continuing to improve as we work our way through our reading series focusing on plants and animal life. We are also going to be focusing on creating acrostic poems with descriptive words. The children are very excited to begin to look at and create poetry. We have continued our weekly writing and will, in the coming quarter, be working on our spelling.



After the end of the third quarter, I will be introducing a weekly spelling list of words. The words will be from our last 8 stories in our reading series. The children will be given the words every Monday with homework from the list on Tuesday and Thursday. The class will be assessed every Friday. Although, the focus is to strengthen the children's spelling, it is also to ensure they are ready for the weekly spelling list and test in second grade. In order to diminish test anxiety, I will give the children a variety of assessments for each list along with the traditional written test.



In the coming fourth quarter the first grade class will also be joining the rest of the school in participating in the SSR program. After lunch the school wide program allows the children to read a book of their choosing for 15 minutes. This program encourages reading and reinforces reading skills taught. The children will be



allowed to choose a book from the classroom library or bring a book from home. A book brought from home must be school and age appropriate.

As we come closer to the end of the year, there will be many memorable and exciting activities for first grade. A few things to remember in the last quarter are to please make sure your children have a water bottle with water only. No juice, Gatorade or lemonade are allowed in the classroom. Please remind your child to wear a belt if their uniform requires it. I want to thank you all in advance for all your help and support. I truly appreciate every one of you.



Sincerely,
Mrs. Barrios



LIST
created

total

regroup

for

volume

events

harvest

APRIL

spring

pattern

faith

calendar

share

season

year

learned

flowers

month

growing

rabbit

pound

connection

cave

length

gather

lady bug

inch

meal

insect

weight

priest

head

centimeter

Gospel

antennae

liter

altar

thorax

thermometer

church

legs

Earth Day

saints

abdomen