

FIRST GRADE



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 11th and Friday the 12th 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.

rectangle

oval

octagon

April will be a busy month academically for us as well. We will continue to explore money and time in math. Both are, traditionally, very



difficult topics in first grade; the children typically need plenty of practice and review. We will begin to focus on double digit addition this month as well. Our exploration of social studies will be tying into Earth Day as we look at our planet's 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 eight 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.



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