



The Fahner Facts Sept. 8, 2017

We have survived the first two weeks of school and adjusting to the classroom routines and expectations! As we continue to learn and focus on appropriate school behaviors, discussions at home regarding listening, following directions and keeping hands and feet to self are greatly appreciated.

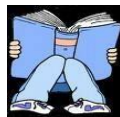
Reminders: Here

are a few things to keep on your calendar:



- **Friday September 22nd**: Scholastic Book Orders Due (these will come home on the 11th)
- **Friday September 22nd**: School Picture Day
- **Week of September 11th**: Submit 3rd meal forms to school if interested. An information sheet is in your student's folder.

Reading:



Students took the STAR assessment for both reading and math. This test can be very challenging for first graders as it is quite different from the STAR test they took last year in Kindergarten. These scores will serve as a baseline to show growth throughout the year along with many in-class observations and additional assessments.

During this next week, I will be assessing students on their sight word knowledge. Upon completion, I will send home an individualized list for your student. Please take 5 minutes each night to work on 5-10 words. At the end of

first grade students should be able to read 196 words quickly and correctly.

In our classroom, students are working on using both the picture and words to help them during our independent reading time. These skills are also addressed in small group reading. At home, encourage your child to look at the first sounds in the words in correlation with the picture to help with those tricky words in books.

For phonics, we are beginning our investigation on short vowel word families. Reading and spelling words like cat, him, flop, ten, cup etc. will help students transfer these skills into both reading and writing.

Writing:



Writing will look a bit different this year as we implement our new K-3 curriculum. Each unit will be 3 weeks and include shared writing, responses to reading, independent writing and free choice writing. Every unit will focus on a specific style of writing and we will celebrate one piece of writing from each student during a publishing celebration.

Any stories not used for publishing will be sent home with the student. When writing comes home, sit down with your child and have him/her share these pieces with the family. Provide praise for your student and choose one that you all could improve as a team.

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Math:

We have updated our math curriculum to better meet the needs of our students and the first grade standards. Currently, students are working on counting to 30, identifying the number that is greater or fewer and comparing sets of numbers. Most of our math has been "hands on" but as we continue our year, you will see family letters coming home, student work coming home and the occasional practice sheet coming home.



You may notice a 1, 2, or 3 at the top of your student's paper. This is an indicator for families to see how their student is doing in the class. A 1 means that the student needs lots of support with the concept. A 2 means that the student is developing that skill but still seeks guidance. A 3 means that the student has shown mastery in that specific skill. I use this as a means of communication between school and home. If you have any questions, please let me know.



Science:

This year we will have explicit science units with end of unit assessments. During each unit, students will engage in hands on activities that may include experiments or engineering projects. To help with the cost of some of these projects, I will send home family donation sheets with items listed that would be appreciated.

Social Studies:

We will begin our first social studies unit during these next few weeks. This unit will focus on establishing rules inside and outside the classroom.



PBIS:

You may have noticed lots of starjackets in your student's folder these past few weeks. Each day, many of our classmates are receiving starjackets for following the school rules both inside and outside the classroom. A tear off portion of these are kept for weekly classroom and school drawings as well as saved for the big monthly drawing. We are proud to acknowledge all those amazing students who are following the school rules.



Technology:

Students are getting acquainted with the Chrome books and took both math and reading STAR tests using these devices. Throughout the year, students will use the Chrome books to learn how to type, insert pictures, create a slide show and conduct research.



Be sure to check your student's folder each day for important information

Enjoy your weekend,
Holly Fahner