

The Fahner Facts

Sept. 22, 2017



Remind Me Alerts: text 81010 with the message @mrshfahn

Facebook Closed Group: Mrs. Fahner's First Grade Classroom

Classroom Website: fahnersfacts.weebly.com

One month down, many more to go! It has been a challenging month as we all adjust to the classroom expectations and routines, but students are making huge gains in these areas and are doing some amazing learning.

Reminders: Here are a few things to keep on your calendar:



- **Friday September 22nd**: Scholastic book orders due
- **Monday September 25th**: Spirit Week Begins- Mon (Crazy Socks), Tues (Twin Day), Wed (College Gear), Thurs (Crazy Hair), Fri (Purple and Gold)



Reading:

Students have been placed in small groups based upon multiple assessments that were completed during this month. There are many students who will be given additional supports by our reading interventionists, paraprofessionals or Reading Corps tutors. Written or verbal notification will be made to families when children are given additional supports outside the classroom.

Sight words are HUGE in first grade and will be taught explicitly in the classroom. However, practicing these words at home every night will help increase your student's knowledge and application of these sight words during school. A list of sight words that your student already can

identify quickly and correctly is coming home today. The list also shows the other sight words and the order in which they are taught so you can focus your efforts in a systematic manner. In addition, I am sending home sight word cards that include ALL first grade sight words. Cut these out 1-2 pages at a time as they are in order of when I will be teaching them. Use them as flashcards, play games, do speed tests etc. to help students learn and apply these words consistently in their reading.

It is important to study about 10 words at a time that include known and unknown words. As your student learns a word, keep it in the pile until more are learned. Then take a few "easy" words out and pull in a few harder words from your packet of flash cards.

Continue working with your child on rhyming, breaking words into individual sounds and chunks as well as letter/sound id.

Writing:

We continue to increase our writing stamina during the week and I am pleased to say that we are making huge progress. Kids are focusing on small moment stories that stay on topic, include lots of details and have words stretched out to make it easier for the reader. During these next



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few weeks, we will choose a piece a writing that is deemed "our best" and fix it up for publishing. Published pieces will be celebrated in class and all other stories will come home for viewing.

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.

Math:

We are wrapping up our first unit in math quickly. Students are working on adding/subtracting 1 or 2 from numbers less than 12. We have also spent many workshop days solving word problems with addition and subtraction.



Thank you to those who are reading the family letters, helping students with homework and playing the games at night. Whenever game pieces come home, please keep these for repeated use during the unit.

You may notice a B, D or M at the top of your student's paper, especially for assessments. This is an indicator for families to see how their student is doing in the class. A B means that student needs lots of support with the concept. A D means that the student is developing that skill but still seeks guidance. A M 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:

Our first science unit will be begin near the end of October.



Social Studies:

Students are sharing about their families, rules and responsibilities members have and ways our families provide for us. This unit will wrap up in 2 weeks.



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.



Other ways in which we promote positive actions in our classroom pertain to our celebration chart and earning classroom dollars. When our class receives compliments from staff or goes above and beyond the normal expectation, we earn a

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mark on our celebration chart. In addition, students can earn classroom dollars that are used to purchase items from the class store.

Technology:

Once our classroom routines are well established, we will build in computer time each week to help teach skills such as typing, inserting pictures, creating slide shows and accessing the internet.



Donations:

Thank you for the extra snacks that have been donated. I always appreciate pretzels or crackers for the snack as I still want kids to take responsibility and bring a snack from home or from breakfast every day. When our extra snacks are awesome, kids tend to "forget" their snacks more often.

Clorox or cleaning wipes are a must in first grade. If you find some on sale or can donate any to our classroom, that would be wonderful!

Birthday Treats:

We look forward to celebrating your child's special day. As you probably know, there are many more

students than ever before that have been identified as having allergies...from nuts, to eggs, to gluten, etc. With this information, I need to respond in a manner that promotes a safe environment for all students. ***Therefore, if you choose to send in a sugary treat, your child can pass the treat out, but the students will have to take it home to eat at the end of the day. Otherwise, your child could bring in a non-food item for his/her birthday celebration (a book for the class, stickers, pencils, etc). Or he/she could bring in their favorite book, poem, or card to share with the class.*** I understand that this isn't what has been done in the past, but if your child had these medical concerns, I know you'd want the safest environment possible. Additionally, please make sure that "party invitations" are mailed from your house to the homes of students you are inviting. Passing these out at school causes hurt feelings and does not help to promote the all inclusive environment that we work towards. Thank you for your understanding!

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

Enjoy your weekend,
Holly Fahner