

# The Fahner Facts Oct. 6, 2017



Remind Me Alerts: text 81010 with the message @mrshfahn

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

Classroom Website: [fahnersfacts.weebly.com](http://fahnersfacts.weebly.com)

It is finally feeling like Fall! With this change in weather also comes cold and flu season. Please be sure to communicate with me when your student is feeling under the weather. It is challenging for me to decide if a kid is truly sick or just wanting to stay home. Therefore, unless they have a fever, green snotty nose or are puking, I tend to have them stick it out. Your help in letting me know the signs and symptoms your student normally has before s/he is very sick will ensure that proper care is being taken. Just a reminder: when a child has a fever or is throwing up, please keep him/her home until their fever or vomiting has ended for more than 24 hours.

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



- **Week of October 9<sup>th</sup>:** Conference sheets will be coming home. Due to my maternity leave, I will be holding conferences the first week of November. Please complete the form that comes home so we can touch base before my little one arrives!



## **Reading:**

We are in fully swing with regards to our literacy program. Students participate in large group lessons focused on first grade curriculum. In between each lesson, students are working on independent tasks through a learning center which

reviews past concepts. 2-3 times per week students are attending small group lessons that are created to meet your student's literacy needs and help increase growth based on areas of difficulty.

Over the next two weeks, students will continue their focus on short vowel sounds. We wrapped up short A and will be studying short I and short O during our large group lessons. At the conclusion of each week, students are expected to blend words with these vowel sounds as well as write words that contain these vowel sounds. Skills are assessed through spelling tests and end of week assessments. All scores are sent home to families with a B, D or M at the top to help communicate areas of strengths and identify key components that can be practiced at home.

## **Writing:**

Students are working on various styles of writing. Many are continuing their narrative pieces and adding details such as setting, feelings, characters and descriptive events. We have also introduced informative writing and creating lists. When our unit concludes in about 2 weeks, students will pull one piece of narrative text to publish and will clean out their writing folders.



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## Math:

Students have enjoyed exploring the various shapes in this current unit. We are investigating a hexagon, trapezoid, rhombus, diamond, square and triangle. Not only are the kids using these shapes to make comparisons, but they are creating larger shapes and designs in various ways using only the provided pattern blocks. We will wrap up this unit in 2 weeks with an assessment.



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 next week. Our focus will be on weather and seasons.



## Social Studies:

I appreciate the families who have contributed to our social studies unit by completing the tasks that were sent home. We will swing back to Social Studies in Mid November.



## PBIS:

There are lots of wonderful behaviors being showcased in our classroom and around school. Students are being rewarded with Starjackets, classroom dollars and marks on our thermometer as acknowledgement for being safe, respectful and responsible. Continue praising your student when a purple Starjacket comes home.



Large group time seems to be a struggle for many of our students. Keeping hands to self instead of picking strings, random things on the carpet or touching their neighbor, is a behavior we are working on at school. Any additional conversations you can have at home regarding listening and following directions during large group are always appreciated.

## Technology:

Our computer time is minimal at this point. Students will be using computers and MP3 players during center time to help with listening to stories and playing interactive games focused on our current learning objectives. I am looking for a slot during our week where we can focus strictly on basic computer skills. When I find one, I will let you know!



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## Donations:

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! In addition, with cold and flue season quickly approaching, extra tissues are needed for our students.

## 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