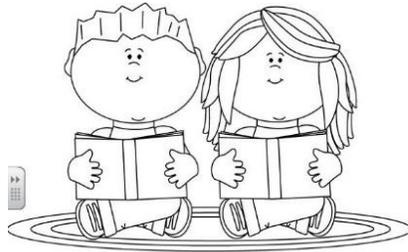


First Full Week of School!

August 19 - 23, 2019



It has been a wonderful, but LONG, week for all of us! I'm not sure who has had the hardest time getting "back in the swing" . . . the kids, or Mrs. Martin and myself! (But I'm guessing the latter. Children are very resilient!)

Throughout this exciting week we have experienced the following:

- *our first classes in Spanish, Technology and Library
- *the first issue of our weekly First Grade magazine, Scholastic News
- *"SSR" (silent reading) where we practiced the "read to self" procedure and worked on our stamina (very good vocabulary word!)
- *reading assessments to determine individual reading levels, strengths, and challenges - this includes our "AIMSweb" assessment, along with the opportunity for each child to read independently to either Mrs. Martin or myself so that we can try to match them up with a box of "just right" books for silent reading
- *spelling assessments to determine what spelling patterns and sight words we already know upon entering First Grade

*spelling patterns using "short a": word families at, am, an, ag, ap, and ad - to be continued next week - - - Weekly spelling tests will begin after Labor Day.

*alphabetizing names - What a challenge when we have two A's, both of which begin with "ANN," two C's, two L's, and even two NOAHs! Yikes!

*getting a close-up view of AIR FORCE ONE as it flew low and slow over Anchorage School on Wednesday, while we were outside on the playground! (I don't care how you feel about our President - seeing that plane fly right above my head is a thrill I'll never forget!)

*lessons in "Core Essential Values": treating others "right," making smart decisions, and always doing our best (maximizing our potential)

*our first "Mystery Reader" of the year - MR. HUNTER!

*our first birthday of the year . . . Happy Birthday to Carson!

*safety drills to prepare us for fire, tornado, earthquake, and "intruders" (what a sad fact of life that we must prepare for that last one in 2019!)

*some wonderful "Show and Tell" items, including Henry's beta fish and Vivian's baby sister

*our first "class pet" - a Monarch caterpillar the children voted to name "Boomer"

Some very important reminders:

***LABEL EVERYTHING!** Be sure your child's belongings are labeled with his/her name for easy identification!

***LEARN THOSE LUNCH NUMBERS,** even if your child doesn't plan to buy lunch on a regular basis.

* It's a "given" that I expect your child to **"read" for a minimum of fifteen minutes every evening!!!** Yes, I do realize that we're not all really **READING** yet. First Grade reading can take many forms: "reading the pictures," "being read to by someone," "sharing the reading with someone," and "reading independently." It's generally a logical progression from one of the first two methods to the last.

Bottom line is this: **Be sure that your child is experiencing print at home for a minimum of fifteen minutes daily!**

Please add to your FIELD TRIP list, which was part of your orientation packet: We will see "Dragons Love Tacos!" at Stage One on April 9th. That sure seems like a long way off, but some of you might want to join us and might want to clear your calendars now. 😊

Enjoy your weekend. Rest up, do lots of reading and a little homework, and get ready for another fun week of learning! Look for Mrs. Martin and me if you try to get out to the Kentucky State Fair this weekend. We're both huge fans! Lots of neat learning experiences to be enjoyed out there! 😊