

September 8, 2011

Hello Parents!

I hope your child came bursting through the door shouting how much they loved their first day of First Grade! He or she will probably be exhausted these first few weeks as we get our routine down. For the first week or so there will not be any written homework, just reading. It is important that your child spend at least 15 minutes a day reading with an adult.

With this first official newsletter I have attached our class schedule. On days that we have Gym, it is important that your child wear sneakers in order to participate. Also, we have outdoor recess every day that it is not raining. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. If you would like to leave an extra sweatshirt, hat, etc. in your child's cubby, feel free!

There are many things that I didn't cover in my letter that was sent home last week. Hopefully all of this information isn't too overwhelming, but I like to get it home as soon as possible. Please read through this at your earliest convenience and if you have any questions for me, do not hesitate to contact me. These are basic classroom routines and pieces of information that I like to share with parents.

Homework: Homework in First Grade is limited. I will be sending home a Math worksheet on most nights. The purpose of this assignment is to reinforce the lesson taught that day. It should not take longer than 10 minutes. On occasion there will be spelling homework, but this is usually completed in class. Again, it is sent home for reinforcement. There will not be homework over weekends or vacations.

Reading at home: Your child is at a critical point in the learning process. The more practice they get with their reading the better they will get! Please spend at least 15 minutes a night reading with your child. I will be more than happy to send home books that are appropriate for your child's reading ability.

Snack: We will have a snack every morning. Students are responsible for bringing in their own snack. However, there is always fruit available for free in the cafeteria. Also, if your child would like a water or milk with their snack, they may purchase one from the cafeteria.

Our Schedule: Please see the attached schedule. This of course is flexible, and if any major changes are made I will send a new copy home. The class has Gym on Wednesday and Friday please be sure your child comes in with socks and sneakers. The times labeled "Literacy Workshop" are blocks in our day where we focus on specific reading skills at each child's individual level. We are lucky to have Mrs. LaSelva as our Reading Specialist and it is during these times she will be joining our class.

Communication: I will also be sending home a weekly newsletter on Mondays and will also post it on the website. If you should need to reach me, the classroom number is 508-627-3316 ext. 132. The best time to reach me is before 8:20 and after 2:40. I also check my email at various times throughout the day. My email address is MMcDonald@mvyps.org.

Afterschool: If your child's plan for after school is different from their "typical" day, **I must have a note in writing letting me know.** This is to keep your child safe!

School Visits: If you come to visit your child please be sure to stop in the office and get a visitor's pass. Also, if you are interested in chaperoning any of our field trips this year or volunteering in the school, you will need to have a CORI. These are good for 3 years and can be done at the Superintendent's office. Thank you for your attention to this!

Lunch: Please be sure to review the lunch menu with your child before each day if they plan on buying.

Poem of the week: Each week we will be reading a poem every morning. A copy of this poem will also come home with your child in their homework folder each Monday. Please read it over with them once a

night and leave it in their folder. We will be keeping all of the poems in school as well so each child will have a complete collection at the end of the school year.

Celebrations: It is our school policy that if you would like to bring in a snack or treat for your child's birthday or for a holiday, that you let me know what that snack will be 48 hours in advance. This helps with students who may have food allergies or intolerances so that we can make sure they have a treat that is safe for them. Thank you in advance!

I am confident we are going to have a wonderful year! I look forward to getting to know you and your child. Please do not hesitate to call me if an issue arises or you have a question.

Sincerely,

Megan McDonald

Responsibilities for Alicia:

Copy the poem of the week (2 copies per student)

Collect HW folders

Make copies of phonics readers

Tear out worksheets needed for the week

Sharpen pencils

Take down chairs in the morning

Put out seatwork

Snack count...

Keep track of who does not complete homework... Gradebook???