

Important Information

Lunch Money: The office prefers that you send lunch money on Monday in an envelope with your child's name and "1 - Cook" on it. Lunches are \$1.50 or reduced are \$.40. Breakfast is \$.90 and reduced \$.30. This includes milk.

Snack: We will have a morning snack every day. Please send snacks the whole class can share. We really appreciate non-sugary snacks such as animal crackers, pretzels, grapes, apples, cheese, etc. I have a small refrigerator for items that need it.

Birthday Celebrations: If your child's birthday is in June, July, or early August we can celebrate it in May. If your child's birthday is during the school year, we can celebrate it on his/her regular birthday or the Friday before or Monday after the actual date. Please let me know if your child would like to bring a treat to celebrate his/her birthday. The snacks need to be store-bought due to school policy.

Spelling Tests: The spelling tests will be on Fridays. We will practice learning the words at school phonetically and in context, but please support your child by practicing the words at home too! Low-stress practice opportunities include spelling the words out loud in the car, writing them one or two times each, or forming the letters for each word with shoe strings, pipe cleaners, play dough, etc. Be creative and keep it fun as students build their spelling skills and learn new words!

Book Club Orders: About once a month I will send home a Scholastic Book Club order form. Scholastic offers some great books at reasonable prices. I encourage you to order. Children are excited to receive a book and it motivates them to read at home. When you order books, we will also earn points to buy books for our classroom! On-line ordering is encouraged since you can pay on-line and don't have to send a check to school. The orders are also processed more quickly when I do not have checks to mail. Thanks so much for helping our class earn free books! 😊

Literacy Curriculum: We utilize many tools and strategies to build strong readers in First grade.

Shared Reading - books that I read emphasizing the skills of a good reader in context

Guided Reading - books chosen at your child's individual level to teach reading skills

Self-Selected Reading or Independent Reading - books children read that they have selected at their level

Letter and Word Work - learning the phonetic structure of words and spelling

Writer's Workshop - children learn to create their own stories

Read-Aloud - I read a book to the children for their enjoyment and to build their listening comprehension skills

Accelerated Reader: Accelerated Reader is a program where students choose a leveled book from the library to read. I will introduce this program to students as I see they are ready for it.

P.E. Shoes: Students are required to keep a pair of clean tennis shoes at school for indoor P.E. They do not have to be new, but they must only be used for P.E. Additionally, on nice days when P.E. is outside, students need to be wearing tennis shoes or closed toe shoes appropriate to run around in. Indoor P.E. shoes may not be worn outside.

Homework: I will be sending home a Homework Packet on Monday of every week. It will be in the front pocket of the L.I.O.N. Binder. The cover for the packet will serve as an assignment sheet and as the newsletter for the week. This packet should be returned by each Friday. It will not be graded for accuracy, but I will check it for completion. I know you have very busy schedules, so if you know your family will be busy one night, have your child do his or her homework for the busy night the night before. It is very important that the skills we are learning at school be reinforced at home.