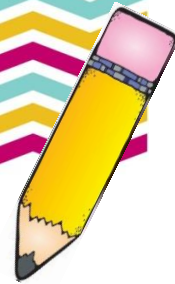


First Grade News

August 28th- September 1st



Mrs. Buckley- kabuckley@stannschool.net

A Peek at Last Week

Religion:

As a class each morning, we joined together in prayer for the opportunity to offer up many personal intentions and in thanksgiving for our many blessings. Our first graders learned about "Five Finger Intentions". I've attached a copy for each of you should you like to use it at home. As we began our first religion chapter, our first graders explored God's love by remembering all of those who teach us about his love. We focused on how our families, the church and the Bible helps us to know and love God. Each first grader received their own Children's Bible and began reading from it daily. At St. Ann, each month, we will focus on a new prayer as a school. For the month of August, we practiced the Glory Be as a school. During the month of September, we will be saying the Our Father and practicing the Lord's prayer as a class daily. Please review this with your first grader at home. This week, we were very excited to also have the opportunity to go to our first mass as a class of first graders! It was a wonderful experience and we are looking forward to celebrating each week together. Next week, we will be reviewing Chapter 1 and will begin our second chapter in our series, *Be My Disciples*.

Math:

We have had an exciting week launching our new math program, *My Math!* With Chapter 1, our first graders have been hard at work learning all about how you add numbers. Through the use of many of our "Problem of the Day," "Quick Checks," and foldables, our first graders have been putting their skills to the test by solving word problems involving addition. We also used special "part/part/whole" work mats to solve addition problems and set up our math notebooks! Moving forward, we will continue with Chapter 1 and will dive into adding zero, ways to write addition number sentences and vertical addition. We will also be launching our weekly math tubs (centers) next week. These are designed to allow for additional skill practice and guided math groups through the use of many hands-on daily activities with their peers. Be on the lookout for additional information at Back to School Night regarding checking out Math Tool-Kits and our optional math homework pages.

Reading:

During our reading block this week, we used our time to review many kindergarten skills. We read "Jack's Talent" and "Back to School," as well as focused on the sounds for letters s, a, m, and t. In addition, we practiced several kindergarten sight words and introduced our literacy centers! During literacy centers, students worked diligently in small groups to practice critical skills for the start of our *Journeys* lessons. Our literacy centers throughout the year will incorporate key skills from our *Journeys* curriculum and our *Empowering Writers* curriculum. Some of our first graders' favorite activities this week included the "List It" activity in the writing center and pocket chart art center, where students had to follow sentence strip directions to create a bus. Our sight word game "Blep" was also a big hit! Next week, we will officially begin Lesson 1 in *Journeys*.

Social Studies/Science:

During our first week, we began our first Social Studies unit, "Me On the Map." This unit will incorporate many of our first grade geography standards. We loved reading the story "Me On the Map" written by Joan Sweeney and enjoyed making special books that are helping us learn about our continent, country, state, city and school. We are looking forward to many exciting activities next week with our unit. Throughout the year, we will be alternating between Social Studies and Science units in first grade.

Mark Your Calendar

- September 5th Book Baggies begin
- September 6th: Back to School Night: 6:30 pm
- September 8th: Spelling Bags are sent home
- School Mass 8:30am (Parents Welcome!)
- September 15th: Mass at 8:30am, 1st Spelling Test on Lesson 2 words
- September 21st: Midterm Reports go home
- September 29th: No School, Professional Day

A Note from Mrs. Buckley:

Dear First Grade Parents,

I hope you all have had a wonderful long weekend! It is hard to believe the first full week has flown by this quickly! Our first graders worked incredibly hard and are learning our classroom routines and procedures. They are doing a wonderful job settling in!

On Friday, September 1st, I sent home information regarding our first grade nightly reading log and book baggies. I will be looking at these daily and am looking forward to seeing great book choices from our first graders!

Beginning this week, your first grader will be bringing home their book baggies which will include paper decodable readers. These paper books can be kept at home for additional practice however, the rest of the contents inside the book baggie must be returned each day to school. Later this year, each student will get to choose books each morning to add to their book baggie. These will not be paper books and must be returned to school. Don't forget, the paper decodable books that will begin coming home each week may be used for nightly reading. In fact, they align with our phonics studies each week and provide excellent additional practice! We are working on getting into a great routine. Thank you for your help with this!

Book baggies will also include your first grader's sight word rings. A list of additional fun ways to practice sight words at home can also be found in your first grader's purple folder tomorrow. Just a few minutes of practice each day makes a BIG difference!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you this week at our Back to School Night. During our first grade session, we will have the opportunity to discuss many important items about our curriculum and everyday classroom happenings!

Please let me know if you have any additional questions/concerns. I look forward to working together this year to ensure your child's success. Enjoy the rest of your long weekend!

Blessings,
Mrs. Buckley