



# First Grade News

## Dates of Interest

- Jan. 8-12 -College Week
- Jan. 15 -Student/Teacher Holiday
- Jan. 23- Tutoring Begins
- 1st Grade Parent Conferences:  
*Feb. 21-23rd*
- Student Holiday Feb. 19

## Social Studies

### Science Unit: Designing Walls

Our next focus in Science will be an engineering unit: **Designing Walls**. Have you ever built something that was made out of materials that came from the earth's surface? The students are going to be learning about what materials are made of and will be designing a wall that is made out of different materials!

Our next social studies unit will focus on the government. Who makes the rules, past and current leaders such as Lincoln, Washington, Sam Houston, Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt. We will also discuss voting and public officials.



Mid-Year Conferences

## Math

During the next 6 weeks, we will cover two units. In Unit 6, we will find & use patterns on a hundred chart. Students are introduced to our base 10 numeration system. They will learn different ways to represent numbers using manipulatives. Also, they will be counting forward and backward to 120 & skip counting by 2s, 5s, & 10s to 120. In Unit 7, we will extend their understanding of the numeration system to 120. They will reinforce that 100 is ten 10s & use manipulatives to make bundles for counting & keeping track. Students will use a place-value chart to connect the number of ones, tens, & hundreds to written numerals. Students will compare numbers greater than 10 using the traditional symbols & will use place-value blocks to illustrate the numbers. Students are introduced to coins & values and will begin finding the value of a collection of coins.

## Language Arts

As we begin a new six weeks, take some time to look back at previous skills and refresh, as we continue to build upon them. This six weeks we will be focusing on many new skills. On a weekly basis we discuss robust vocabulary, where we define, use the word in a sentence, and connect to real life experience. During our story of the week, students are organizing their thoughts through the use of graphic organizers. We appreciate all your efforts to help your child with reading at home!

*Mark your calendars!*

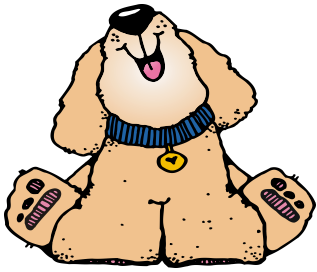
Ms. Garner Feb. 22

Mrs. Baird Feb. 21

Mrs. Alway Feb. 21

Mrs. Grether Feb. 23

Mrs. Bannister Feb. 23



# Quality Work

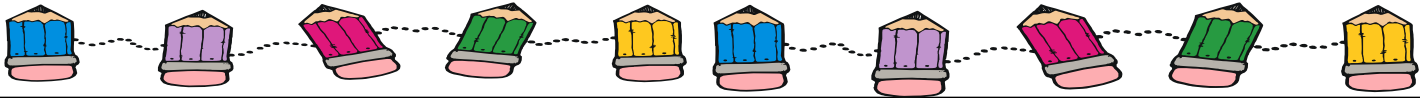
Keep encouraging your students to complete quality work both at home and school. Their work will be proudly displayed in our First Grade classrooms! We are a community of learners.

## Volunteers Still Needed

We appreciate so much those of you who are able to join us here at school to help out with the many prep jobs we have and with the lunch room needs. We are still looking for more ways for you to join in ! If you would like to take work home to complete it there—we can send work home. If you would like to help in some other way, contact your child's teacher. We welcome the opportunity to work together to make your child's First grade year Amazing!

## Snack:

*Just a reminder to send healthy and "no spoons needed" kind of snack.*



## Word Work

Would you like some new ways to practice word work at home? Below are some ideas you might want to try with your first grader.

- **Rainbow write:** Roll a dice and each number represents a color. The children should then write their word work words in that color.
- **Word Work Match Game:** create 2 sets of word cards and place them face down on the table. Have your child pick up two at a time, if the match they keep them, if not place them down and pick up two more cards. Game is over when they have matched all words correctly.

## HW Reading

- We encourage your child to read 15 minutes nightly, as stated on the homework sheet. This time can be independent reading, your child reading to you, or you reading to your child. Please monitor their comprehension by implementing questions periodically and asking about story elements (such as who are the characters, setting, problem, solution, and main idea). This reading time is a special time for you and your child to explore the wonderful world of literature.

## BEE Binders

Staying neat and organized is an important Hound Trait. To encourage this trait please help by cleaning out your child's "BEE" binder nightly!

## Assessments

We are in the middle of testing the students for our mid-year conferences. The students will be tested on alphabet recognition without reversals, sentence dictation, sight words if not already mastered and reading levels. The Texas Primary Reading Inventory will also be administered to each child giving the teachers important information on your child's academic growth. Results of the Language Arts Assessments will be shared during the Mid-year conferences.

