

First Grade Information Packet



**St. Peter's School
2011-2012**

*****Please refer to this information packet as a reference throughout the year. *****

Birthdays

On this special day feel free to bring treats for your child. Food must be in individual portions and we ask that you do not send any drinks. Please do not distribute party invitations at school unless it is for the whole class. Your child is also able to celebrate his/her birthday by wearing jeans.

Book Orders

Once a month, book orders will be sent home. For multiple book orders you can write one check made out to Scholastic.

Life/Christ Skills

We will be studying and reading literature that reinforces one of these Christ skills each week. Please acknowledge your child by using the appropriate terminology when you see him/her doing one of these skills at home.

Perseverance	Organization	Friendship
Sense of Humor	Caring	Respect
Flexibility	Cooperation	Initiative
Effort	Responsibility	Curiosity
Courage	Common Sense	Patience
Integrity	Problem Solving	

Writer's Workshop

Throughout the year your child will bring his/her published stories home to read. He/she has worked so hard writing, illustrating, and editing these stories. Please make sure they are sent back to school the next day, so they can become part of our classroom library. At the end of the year all of your child's stories will come home for you to enjoy!

Library

When St. Peter's library books come home please be sure they are returned the next day. Tuesday is our library day.

Specials

Monday-P.E., Tuesday-Library, Wed.- P.E., Thursday- Music, Fri.-Art

Snack

Your first grader will be eating lunch at 11:30 this year. If you would like to send a small snack with your child, he/she will be able to eat it during recess.

Homework/Assignment Notebook

Your child's home folder and assignment notebook should come home every single night! It is a daily communication between teacher and parent that should be checked **daily**. Assignments will be written in the notebook every single day. Please send any notes in this folder, that you wish us to receive.

*Homework is due the very next day, unless specified. If homework is not turned in on time, a consequence will be given to your child.

1. **Phonics notebook** (see below).

2. **Word Wall Words (W.W.W.)** – Every Monday your child will write down 5 words in his/her assignment notebook that will be our focus for the week. In class we will do many activities that will help your children learn these words. Please reinforce these at home. They are expected to be able to read these words, it is not necessary to spell them. It is a good idea to make flash cards with the W.W.W. and practice them.
3. **“Just Right book”** – Your child will be learning how to choose books that are “just right” for him/her. Many of these books are library books and classroom books that your child will be reading during our Readers’ Workshop and for Accelerated Reader (AR). Please ensure your child brings these books back to school each day for our reading time. It is a good idea to let your child read these books to you.
4. **Accelerated Reader (AR)** – Your child will begin reading books that are on AR. He/she will take comprehension quizzes on the computer at school. The first grade goal is to take one AR quiz per week. Please encourage your child to accomplish this goal.
5. **Reading** – Please be sure that you have your child read to you, as well as you read to them on a daily basis. We recommend 15-30 minutes. You can be a great model for your child.
6. **Math** – Periodically your child will have homework, so be sure to check their home folders and assignment notebook daily. We also ask for your help in practicing addition facts at home with your child. Flash cards are a great idea! We will begin one minute timed tests in November.
7. **Assignment Notebook** – Your child will have an assignment notebook that should be checked nightly, as well.
8. **Spelling** – Beginning in November your child will receive 5 spelling words (frequently used words) each Friday. These spelling tests will be individualized to your child’s needs. Spelling tests are given each Thursday. We ask that you practice these words nightly and review past spelling words. We will give review tests periodically.

Phonics Notebook

Your child will be bringing home his or her Phonics Notebook approximately twice a week. On these nights, you need to help your child with his or her homework. There will be a page with an assigned sound. Together, come up with at least five words that have that sound. Write them down vertically and then write one sentence using one of the words. Make sure you come up with words with the correct sound rather than the letter. For example, for the sound represented by the letter x, we would need words like exit, not xylophone. In Phonics, we are focusing on the sounds the letters represent.

Please help your child spell these words correctly. (We use “best guess” spelling in other areas of writing.) Of course, your child should be using his or her best handwriting as well. Your child needs to pick one of these words and use it in a sentence, using correct capital letters and punctuation is expected. Please practice reading these words (and review past words) with your child. The notebook must be returned the next day for lessons in class. Please call us with any questions!

Each Friday your child will take a dictation test based on the Phonics sounds we have studied that week, all sounds studied throughout the year will also be assessed on these dictation tests. There will be 5-6 words and 1-2 sentences on each test. We use

these tests to assess if your child has mastery of the sounds. At this time we will also dictate 2-3 numbers. We will be assessing if they can write the numbers correctly.

Dismissal

First grade dismisses out the east doors of the school, facing the Legacy Center, except for Miss Jett's class, who will dismiss from the courtyard.

How You Can Help

- Make sure you check the assignment notebook daily.
- Homework is in their folder.
- Library books are returned every Monday.
- Bedtime is no later than 8:30.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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