



2015

September Newsletter

1ST GRADE

September is here!

First graders have just finished their first month of school. We are now beginning to settle into our well established routines and procedures. Please continue to read with your children at home. Setting up a daily reading schedule is a great way to both show and model the importance of reading to your children.



Dates to remember:

Labor Day	9/7
Constitution Day	9/17
Picture Day	9/22
Screen on the Green	9/25
Conference Day	10/9
Holiday—no school	10/12

Upcoming Conferences

Conferences are just around the corner. October 9th is Conference Day. We are looking forward to meeting with each child's family. We ask that you please be mindful of your arranged time, as your child's teacher is on a very tight schedule. A conference reminder/confirmation will be sent. Please contact the teacher if you did not sign-up for a conference. Also, let the teacher know prior to the conference if you are not able to attend.

Quick Reminders

- Healthy Snack: Please make sure that you are sending in ONE *healthy* snack that your child can open independently each day.
- Transportation Changes: All transportation notes must be submitted in writing or over the phone. Please **do not** email transportation changes or simply tell your child.
- A great way to get a note to your child's teacher is to staple it in his or her agenda or place it in the communication folder. Please let your child know to turn it in. Please be sure to sign your child's agenda each day!

Here is a link to access online textbooks for your child. Please be aware that we follow the Common Core Curriculum in Reading, Language Arts and Math and use these textbooks only as a supplement to our instruction. In reading/language arts, we use the Journeys program, Fountas and Pinnell guided reading program, and literacy stations to help support the Common Core Standards. In Social Studies and Science, we use the Georgia Performance Standards and the textbooks are used as a supplement to our instruction as well.

Here are some websites that have more information about our curriculum:

www.georgiastandards.org

www.fultonschools.org under learning and teaching

The link below will connect you to the portal page with all online textbook info.

<http://www.fultonschools.org/en/divisions/acd/learnteach/Pages/ElementaryTextbookCodes.aspx>



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CURRICULUM

Reading & Language Arts

Our mixture of whole group and small group instruction will focus on:

- Beginning, middle, and ending sounds in single-syllable words
- Adding and deleting sounds to change words
- Identifying common and possessive nouns
- Identifying story elements (characters and plot)
- Identifying and using action words (verbs)
- Identifying and reading different genres including realistic fiction, informational texts, and fantasy
- Identifying main idea and details of stories, as well as making predictions and making connections both personal and text to text.
- Printing with appropriate spacing
- Using punctuation and capitalization in sentences

Mathematics-Unit 1 and 2

Through small and large group instruction we will work on the following skills:

- Count to 120, starting at any number less than 120
- Read and write numerals to 120
- Represent a number of objects with a written numeral, numeral word, and tally marks
- Organize, represent and interpret data on graphs
- Determine how many more/less are in one category than in the other
- Ask and answer questions related to data collected on graph
- Use base ten blocks to understand place value and to represent numbers up to 120

Science and Social Studies—

Science: Students will investigate light and sound. They will learn to recognize sources of light and explain how shadows are made. Students will also investigate how vibrations produce sound and differentiate various sounds in terms of pitch and volume. We will also discuss emergency sounds and sounds that keep us safe.

Social Studies: We are just finishing up "Our Earth our Home". We discussed and located all of the seven Earth's continents and their geographical location. Students learned the names of oceans and their interconnectivity to each other. Students used globes and maps to further expand their knowledge of the Earth. The focus of our learning then shifted to the understanding of our country—the United States of America, our state—Georgia and the various geographical features of our country.

Students will learn about Johnny Appleseed as we celebrate his birthday this month. We will begin our study of American Heroes starting with Benjamin Franklin next!