

Mrs. Taylor's First Grade Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION

Date: August 2010

Email - jtaylor@fairhavenps.org

Welcome!

I am so happy to welcome you and your children to my classroom this year! With all the paperwork that you will receive in those first few days of school, I wanted to send this newsletter in the summer so that you have time to read it fully.

I hope that everyone is having an enjoyable and restful summer. We are going to have a wonderful year full of learning and exciting activities. I encourage you all to get involved with the school in any way you can. My door is **always** open for questions, concerns, ideas, and volunteers, so feel free to contact me at any time!

NAMETAGS!!!

I have enclosed nametags in this mailing. Please have your child wear them on the first day of school. Thanks!!

Supplies

I don't want anyone to worry about buying supplies. Every summer, I personally buy and put together a beginning supply "kit" for all of your children. They include (at least) one of each of the following:

- Pencil
- Eraser
- Crayons
- Bottle of glue (for each table group)
- Glue stick
- Homework Folder
- Etc.

As these supplies begin to dwindle, I may ask that you donate them to our class if you are able. Things such as glue sticks, tissues, wet wipes, antibacterial gel, and zip-lock baggies are ALWAYS needed. This has worked well in past years, and I am sure it will this year too.

Email & School Website

When you receive this email, please send me a confirmation email from the address you check most often. I love to keep parents informed and email is one of the quickest ways. If you do not have an email address, that is ok too. I always send newsletters in paper form as well.

Our class has a section on the school website that will list our newsletters each month and any important information about our classroom. Please take a moment to check it out when you can. You can find our page by going to:

1. www.fairhavenps.org
2. Click on East Fairhaven Elementary
3. Click on Teacher Websites in the column to the left
4. Click on Mrs. Taylor under grade 1

Partners

I have been so fortunate to be home with my first child this year. It has been wonderful and gave me a whole new perspective on how hard it is for you to send your child to school each day. I want you to know that I understand the huge amount of trust you give to myself and the school to make sure your baby (they are still your babies even if they are 6 and 7, am I right?) get's all the tools they need to succeed. I will do everything I can to make sure they are successful and I consider you a very important partner in this goal. I always took my mom's advice and treated my students the way I would want my future children to be treated and she always told me to remember that my students are someone's babies. I realize now, more than ever, how important that advice was and is. You know your children the best and I hope you will share your thoughts throughout the year about what is best for your child. I look forward to a wonderful year with my new class and their families.

Homework

First grade is a very important foundation year in school. Students are building a strong basis in reading and writing that they will use throughout their lives. For this reason, continued practice and use of the skills is so important!

Homework in my class is meant to reinforce skills that I am teaching your children during the school day. It has been found that children and adults forget most of the new information that they learn very quickly if that information is not consistently used and applied. For this reason, I try to give homework each school night (except Fridays) that will help students understand the material more deeply. This will also give me an idea as to what the students really understood in school that day, and it will help me rethink my teaching in that particular area in response to their confusions.

It is so important that both you and I hold high expectations in regards to the students' homework. I send home a sheet at the beginning of each week detailing the homework for each day. I will also post this sheet on the website. The homework papers will be delivered home on the assigned day, and if your child leaves/forgets them in school they will still be able to complete most assignments because you will have received the week's homework list on Monday. *Don't worry* - the homework will not be lengthy and should not take up much time each night. If you find your child is taking a long time each night, let me know and we can discuss this.

I am sure that the homework routine will be an easy and successful one!

Reading and Writing

These two extremely important skills are two of the main focuses in first grade. The two subjects develop together, not in isolation, and you will see varied writing and reading assignments throughout the year.

I encourage you to take your child to the library and obtain a library card for them, if you haven't already done so. Students should be reading at home each day. The more they read - the better they will read!

In first grade, students use a reading program with an anthology of stories, but they also have story

books that are chosen to match their reading level. This individualized program - Guided Reading - is very successful in helping all students to succeed and advance in reading skills.

Students will eventually bring the book of the week home to read over the weekend to a family member. They will go to the school library once a week as well, and they will take out a book for home.

Snacks

Some years our schedule does not allow for snacks during the day. I will see how the schedule works out this year and whether a short snack time may be added during seat work.



I really look forward to meeting all of you! If you need anything at all or have any questions, please feel free to contact me (I check my email all summer):

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First Grade Teacher

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