

First Grade Summer News



August 2017

- ★ Animal and plant lifecycles
- ★ Maps
- ★ Holidays
- ★ Respecting others
- ★ Being responsible
- ★ Working with others
- ★ Helping our community to be a safe and happy place to learn
- ★ Being a good friend
- ★ How to take turns
- ★ How to be a contributing member of our classroom and school communities

And so much more!

Dear Families and First Graders,

We hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the summer! We cannot wait to meet you in the coming weeks. In this newsletter, you will find answers to some commonly asked, beginning-of-the-year questions.

We will be exploring so much this year, as well as revisiting concepts that were introduced in kindergarten. We will be learning about:

- ★ Reading fiction and non-fiction
- ★ Using different reading strategies to help us solve unknown words
- ★ Consonant and vowel sounds
- ★ Reading for meaning, understanding, and purpose
- ★ Making connections between different books
- ★ Studying the writing of mentor authors
- ★ Writing stories about ourselves
- ★ Exploring poetry
- ★ Persuasive Writing
- ★ Addition and Subtraction
- ★ Place value
- ★ Geometry and shapes
- ★ Graphs
- ★ Patterns
- ★ Telling time
- ★ Fractions
- ★ Measurement
- ★ Reading a calendar
- ★ Using money
- ★ Weather
- ★ Seasons

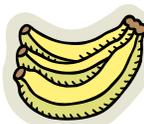
First Grade...

School will start on Wednesday,
August 30.



Snack Time

Every day we will be taking time to have a mid-morning snack. **Please clearly separate your child's lunch from his/her snack (i.e. snack in a separate bag).** This is important, as they will be kept in separate locations. It may be helpful to label them, in some way, to make sure your child can distinguish which is snack and which is lunch.



Simple and healthy snacks are encouraged. Please send something your child can open and close fairly independently. In addition, send a drink that can be closed or a *mini* juice box that can be finished. This will help guard against spills. Please do not send candy, soda, or glass.

Some of our students have food allergies, so we ask that you do not send in snacks containing peanuts. This will help everyone in our community stay healthy and safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Birthdays



We are very happy to celebrate every child's birthday to make them feel special and recognized. However, please do not send in food or drink. We will celebrate in other ways.

Specials



Our classes will be enjoying the different "specials" that the Eliot School offers to its students. The weekly schedule will be sent home at the beginning of the school year. All specials are once a week for 40 minutes except for PE which is twice a week for 40 minutes.

Music

Physical Education: Please remember sneakers!

Art

Spanish

STEAM: Science/engineering, Technology, Art, Music. These classes are 9 weeks long and will rotate throughout the year.

Media: Books are due each week. If books are forgotten, return them as soon as possible. This is the responsibility of your child, with your guidance. ☺

Personal Belongings



Please label coats, lunchboxes, backpacks, etc. This will make for a speedy return if items are lost.

Please note that there are **no toys and/or electronic devices** allowed in our school. Thank you for your support.

Dismissal



Along with this newsletter, we have enclosed a form for each family to fill out regarding end of day transportation for each day of the week. It is very important that we receive this by **August 23rd**. We want to make sure that your child gets home in the intended manner, and this form will help alleviate any issues that could arise.

At any point in the year, if there is a change in your child's dismissal procedure, (time, person picking up, etc.) **please write a note**. If we do not have written permission, we will follow your child's original schedule. If you forget, please call the office and they will deliver the message to your child's teacher. This is very important for the safety of your child. **Please do not email your child's teacher about the changes during the school day.**

Early Release Days & Delayed Openings.



On early release days, students will be released at 12:15. Lunch will not be served. Therefore, you may want to pack a little extra for snack. School will begin at 10:05 on delayed openings and lunch **will** be served. Please check the school calendar for specific dates:

<http://eliot.needham.k12.ma.us/main/>

Also, please write a note if your child's dismissal location and/or time will be different on early release days.

Home Folder

Home/School Communication

Your child will receive a “Home folder” on the first day of school. Please check it nightly and return it daily. If you have any notes or paperwork to return, please put them in the Home Folder. Please let bringing the folder to school be the responsibility of your child. Naturally, your child may need guidance in the beginning. However, please work with your child so s/he develops this responsibility. It is good practice for homework. Please offer reminders if needed; the **folder must come to school each day**. Thank you!

In your child’s Home Folder, you will receive information that will update you on the happenings in the classroom and the school. Sometimes you may receive directions to family games or ideas that you can try at home. We encourage you to keep a separate folder for the activities that we send home so your child will know where the materials are.

First grade can be a challenging transition for some children. A longer school day, increased academic expectations, and having recess on the “big playground” structure are a few examples of change for your child. During the first six weeks of school, and continuing throughout the year, we will be addressing important matters such as these. We will focus on laying a foundation for a respectful first grade community and consequently a productive, fun-filled year.

Warmly,
Gia Jeas
Mary Munkenbeck
Nicole Schwarm
Mary Sullivan

Enjoy the rest of your

