



# The Fabulous First Grade

Ms. Tantillo, Ms. Sims, Ms. Moore, Ms. R. Bollini and Mr. G



## Parent Newsletter – April 2017

### WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

#### Literacy:

**Word Study** – In April, we will be studying vowel digraphs and vowel patterns, possessives, consonant patterns and suffixes.

**Reading Workshop**– In April, we will continue with Unit 5 Mod A: Dig Deeply into Complex Text. Readers will understand that sensory details in a text can describe and the facts, details, and pictures in a text can convey information. Readers will identify unknown words and phrases various texts.

Learners will explore content to understand that observations of the natural world can tell us something about the human world. Writers understand that narrative texts are sequenced events that include a conclusion with some sense of closure.

\*Please continue to read daily with your child – encourage him/her to use print strategies to figure out difficult words and retell the story in sequence (beginning, middle, end). Encourage them to ask questions and then discuss possible responses to their questions.

**Writing Workshop** – Writers will use what they learn in literary and informational texts to create a narrative. Writers will use time order to sequence events. .

#### Math:

**Unit 9** – Developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units.

Domain: Measurement and Data

#### Technology:

During the month of April your child will continue to focus on both keyboarding and mouse skills, as well as proper use of the Internet. We will be using online tools to help maximize these skills. Along the way, we will work on integrating their literacy and mathematical skills, ensuring that all our students maximize their learning with hands on opportunities to succeed.

### What's New in Music and Art?

**Ms. LaMorte:** Students will continue study of Orff Barred Instruments (Glockenspiels, Xylophones and Metallophones) with proper mallet hold, learn 1 possibly 2 pieces, analyze music, beat competency work on quarter note, and self-evaluate.

**Mr. Cintula (Class 332):** Students are reading through arts themed stories, analyzing vocabulary and viewing short films based on the books, followed with a discussion of the characters and the plot of the story.

**Ms. Eliot:** As the weather gets warmer, we'll be moving outdoors with our songs, exercises, and activities! Please be sure your child is wearing comfortable footwear that they can run in on their Movement day!

### \*IMPORTANT DATES

4/7 – Elementary Spirit Week t-shirt forms due

4/10-4/18 – Spring Recess – No School

4/26 – PAWS Awards, 6:30pm

4/27 – PTA General Membership Meeting

### News/Information/Tips/Reminders

- Please check your child's red dot notebook for nightly homework and notices. Remember to sign their homework.
- It is very important not to go ahead in workbooks as homework reflects work completed in class. Please check your child's homework. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns with homework.
- Students are responsible for any missed work/assignments that occur during their absence.
- **Red folders, red dot notebooks and math books should be returned to school everyday!**
- Please make every effort to get your child to school on time (8:00 start). Lateness interrupts lessons and causes disruptions in their learning.
- Students should be reading 20 minutes each night (even if not written in homework).
- Please make sure your child has 3 sharpened pencils to use each day.
- As always, please label your child's clothing and lunch boxes so they can be returned if misplaced.
- Please continue with donations of tissues and wipes for the classroom. They are appreciated!
- **\*\*With the warm weather approaching, please have your child dress appropriately.\*\***



#### PTA News

We are looking for parents to run for positions on the 2017/18 PTA board and also for the SLT (school leadership team). Please let us know if you are interested. New people are welcome and appreciated. Rock em not Sock em event has been postponed.

Our April PTA meeting is Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

Save the date:

We are having a Mother Son bowling event May 7th from 1:00-3:00pm at Showplace Bowling. Please look for an updated flyer in your children's folders.

The Kindergarten Fashion Show is Thursday, May 11th.

Our annual Spring Fair will be held Friday, May 12th. We are looking for volunteers to help as always. Contact the PTA if you are interested in helping us.

*"The object of Education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."*

----Robert Maynard Hutchins



### A Note From Ms. Caccese

Dear Families,

Spring is finally here and we are heading into the last third of our school year. Our children have grown in so many ways and they continue to make us proud each day. Our upper elementary students had a chance to "SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW" on the New York State ELA exams last month and our younger students continue to practice becoming better readers, writers and math problem solvers...everyone keep up the amazing work!

We will continue to host opportunities to engage with our parents and work together to ensure the success of our children. We encourage you to volunteer your time at The Petrides School during upcoming special events!

Sending happy wishes for the upcoming Spring Recess...enjoy the ones you love!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Caccese



As part of our ongoing efforts to support the Mental Health and Wellbeing of all students we are sending this important information about Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to all parents this month.

Many parents are aware that ADHD is a common childhood mental health condition, and most parents recognize the importance of staying focused at home and at school. Parents should also understand that it is perfectly normal for children to show inattention, distractibility, impulsivity or hyperactivity at times, this is part of every child's healthy development.

However, if you are concerned that these behaviors are impacting your child's performance at school or creating problems at home you should consider seeking professional help. Recent surveys show that approximately 11% of children have been diagnosed with ADHD and the average age of diagnosis is 7 years of age. Studies have also found that students with ADHD had persistent difficulties that resulted in lower average grades, more failed grades, more disciplinary problems, increased dropout rates, and a lower rate of college undergraduate completion. Several approaches have been shown to be effective for treating ADHD including behavior therapy and medication. Recent advancements in behavior therapy mean that many children, especially young children, can make significant improvements without medication.

Please see below for common signs and symptoms that can help you identify if your child is experiencing ADHD as well links to some additional online resources. As always parents are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult in the school with any concerns about their child's mental health. We are all here to help and we can connect you with local treatment providers when needed.

Common signs and symptoms of ADHD:

- Is easily distracted
- Doesn't seem to be listening when spoken to directly
- Has difficulty following instructions
- Has trouble organizing
- Avoids or dislikes sustained effort
- Is forgetful, always losing things
- Fidgeting or squirming, trouble staying in one place or waiting
- Trouble playing quietly
- Extreme impatience
- Always seems to be "on the go" or "driven by a motor"
- Excessive talking or interrupting, blurting out answers

Additional online resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control ADHD website](#): Includes basic information about ADHD such as common symptoms, statistics and treatment recommendations
- [Mayo Clinic ADHD Health Information page](#): Patient friendly information about ADHD including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and Self-management
- [NYC Well](#): Local resource where you can chat with a specialist and get a referral to a local specialist who can provide treatment