*Happy Fall!*

Hello Parents,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather. We have settled into a comfortable routine in first grade. All students are following classroom procedures and PBIS models. They are working so diligently every day! Their enthusiasm for learning is so fun to be around.  We just changed our seats and classroom jobs this week. Everyone is doing a wonderful job of keeping our room clean, neat and organized.

Our first service project of the year is off to a banner start! We already have a ton of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Please keep them coming! Our last day for collecting will be Friday October 26th.

Last week we celebrated the beginning of fall with a week devoted to APPLES. We learned about apples and worked with the theme throughout our curriculum. We even taste tested some different color apples and graphed the results. Yum!!! Mrs. Gibbons from the DuPage Farm Bureau visited our room to talk with us about apples. This week we are focusing on Christopher Columbus and his exploration. We will talk about leaves and pumpkins in the coming weeks too.

With the beginning of the fall season comes Halloween. We will celebrate in class with a small party in the afternoon on October 31st. I will be contacting the parents who signed up at Curriculum Night to send in treats. As per school policy, students cannot dress in costume but may bring in a piece of candy or small bagged treat to pass to their classmates if they would like. We will be making Trick‐or‐Treat bags in class. If you choose to send in a trick or “treat” for your child to pass, please remember we have 20 students in first grade. Thanks! (Please also know, this is something fun we do for the party. It is completely optional.)

We are up and running on several different sites on our tablets now. We use a variety of learning sites each week to enhance our learning. Your students is utilizing sites like; X-Tra Math, IXL, Seesaw, EPIC!, SpellingCity, Superkids and Word Cloud to name several.

Language Arts ‐ Our Superkids first grade series, “Adventures of the Superkids” is off to a great start! We are currently working on short vowel sounds and consonant blends like sh, ch, th, wh, ng and le. Your students especially love our “Dictation” time when we write and spell on our desk white boards. We are reading fiction and non‐ fiction stories and learning the difference between them. We are discussing literary elements like characters, setting, problem and solution to name a few. Good Readers are always thinking about what they are reading. We are discussing strategies that help us do this and help us understand what we read. Last month we started using the “6 Traits of Writing” program in our Writer’s Workshop time. We have also started using Word Books and our Word Wall to help us utilize correct spelling in our writing.

Religion news‐ your students have finished chapters 1 and 2 in the Religion text book. The return of Weekly Mass Reflection sheets has been great. Thank you for taking the time to discuss the item of the week and for helping your student complete a sentence and picture about mass. Please continue to return them on Monday. Thanks!!! (Even if you did not attend Sunday mass, please return the reflection sheet on Monday.) We have also started the SIS Faith Words and Virtues program. Each week we discuss two new words related to our Faith. These words get added to our Word Wall for the year.

Math time‐ We are starting to work on subtraction. During this subtraction unit we will learn what it means to take away and some simple strategies to use. We continue to utilize our math workbooks, math tools, virtual tools and on line videos and activities daily. Math fact fluency testing will begin near the holidays! Look for details to come home 2nd quarter. Please allow your child to spend some time practicing their math facts at home either with flash cards or on a fact site. “Fact Dash” is a great timed site that is available right through our Connect Ed. Math web site. We also continue to count to the 100th day of school. We will hit day 30 this week!!! Can you believe it?

Science- We will begin our Science program, Inspire Science next week. Inspire Science will take us through our NGSS Science Standards. We will study and learn about sound, light, plants, animals and the sun and sky. We have also started working on STREAM projects. We will have a STREAM project each month to prepare for our STREAM Night in the spring. Last week we designed and engineered Apple Rafts. I sent some pictures home on SeeSaw.

Social Studies- We have been utilizing a new Social Studies program called Studies Weekly. We get a weekly magazine that covers a different topic in our first-grade curriculum.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read through this VERY long newsletter! I appreciate your time and interest. 

Warmly,

Mrs. Debbi Ryan