

Friday News

First Grade - KTA

3/1/19

Coming up:

- We have completed most parent-teacher conferences. Thank you for coming in to meet with us, we love discussing your children and their progress at school!
- The book fair continues until Wednesday March 6th, make sure you check it out if you haven't already
- Recitation begin Monday the 4th
- Habitat posters are due Friday the 8th
- Spring break March 11-15

Spalding flashcards

Practicing phonograms at home, using the small flashcards we sent home early in the year, is an important part of our Spalding reading/spelling program. Most weeks we include a list of 30 phonograms at the bottom of this newsletter - these are the ones to practice for the coming week. Students are tested on those phonograms the following Friday.

There are two ways to practice:

- Show a card. Your child has to say the sounds. (You can see examples on the back of the card.)
- YOU say the sounds. Your child has to write the phonogram for that sound. In some cases, you will have to give the clue on the back of the card so your child knows which phonogram to write. (Some make the same sounds.)

We have a few extra sets of cards; please let us know if you need a set.

Remember our kids get free access to math and reading games from the Kyrene website and our class website!

What we do in first grade

MATH: The = sign

What does the = sign mean? Here's a hint; it doesn't just mean "equals." In first grade, we are teaching the students that = means "is the same as". We are practicing problems that look like this:

$$8 + 4 = _ + 5.$$

Many students think the answer is 12 because they see $8 + 4$, but they don't pay attention to the $+5$ that comes at the end of the equation. Other kids incorrectly add the $8 + 4 + 5$ and say that the answer is 17.

When guiding students towards the correct answer, which is 7, we explain that $8 + 4 = 12$, so "something + 5" must also equal 12.

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No new spelling words or phonograms next week. We will review words and phonograms learned so far.

REMINDER: **Recitations** are next week! Students should be practicing their poems every night!