

# Mrs. Bachman's First Grade News

September 16, 2016

## Next Week's Reading Skills

**Theme:** When I was Little

**Reading focus:** Practice all components of Reader's Workshop. (Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading and Word Work)

**Phonemic Awareness:** review short vowel sounds and consonant blends

**High Frequency Words:** got, had, her, him, his

**Comprehension:** Children will work on making text-to-self connections and answering questions to understand a story.

**Grammar:** nouns

Below is a list of our Unit 1 sight words. The bold words are the ones we will focus on next week:

all	him	ran	yes
ball	his	read	
boy	how	run	
did	jump	sat	
girl	man	sit	
got	mom	then	
had	not	too	
her	now	will	

\*If your child has mastered these words, please practice spelling them and writing them in sentences using a capital letter and punctuation.

## Readers Workshop

Readers Workshop is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read. Students receive explicit whole group instruction focused on comprehension strategies, and then are given independent practice time to read independently while I provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students ("guided reading groups").

When it is up and running smoothly (which will take *several weeks* of practice!), students will be engaged in the following:

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading (using the RAZkids app)
- Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each component. We will spend our first weeks working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning behavior expectations and fostering our classroom community. I will also spend time learning about your child's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for his/her instruction.

One thing you'll notice that may be a change for you is a direct decrease in the number of worksheets your child brings home. While worksheets keep students busy, they don't really result in the high level of learning I want for your child. Instead, your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they will read during Readers Workshop. They will spend most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. I anticipate the motivation and enjoyment of reading will skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

As you can see, I am excited about giving your child the opportunity to be involved in a structure that will have a positive effect on their education.

## Math

We have been working on numbers, shapes and patterns. We have also started studying addition through finding partners of numbers. (i.e. 2 and 3 are partners of 5)

## Being a Writer

We began our Being a Writer program this week! We will begin by telling stories about us (personal narratives) and using sentence prompts to guide our writing. We are working on using complete sentences and pictures that math our words to tell our story.

## Important Reminders

Monday, September 19: Fundraiser starts

Wednesday, September 21: Book orders due

Thursday, September 22: Picture Day

### PARTY MONEY REMINDER!

Please send \$10.00 cash if you have not already done so!

This money will be used for parties and activities throughout the school year.

## Specials for 9/19-9/23

Monday- Music and Gym Tuesday- Art Wednesday- Music and Gym  
Thursday- Computer Lab and Library Friday- Music and Gym

