



Mrs. Johnson's Meaningful Memos

**Please keep this information for future reference

Morning

*Please drop your child off *on the side of the building*, so that they can walk around to the playground. *Children should NOT be entering in through the front doors before school begins.*

In the morning all students should stay outside on the playground. When the bell rings students will line up in their classroom lines to enter the building with their classroom teacher. On rainy days students will go directly to the front of the building and wait for the bell. Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:15 in the morning as there is NO supervision until that time. Your assistance with these procedures is appreciated.

Money Matters

Any time you send money to school, please put it in an envelope and label it with your child's name, teacher and the purpose for the money.

Lunch

Lunch menus are available on the school website. There will be one hot lunch choice each day. Children may have hot lunch or bring a lunch from home. It is very important that your child knows which choice they are having **BEFORE** coming to school so they can sign up for lunch. Children will not be able to change their minds once a lunch has been ordered. ***In addition parents are not be permitted to bring special lunches*** (i.e., Subway, McDonalds, Pizza...)

Milk Money

Milk is included with hot lunch. Students bringing lunch from home, or wishing to have two milks may purchase milk for \$0.50.

Gym Shoes

Each student **MUST** have a pair of clean gym shoes to keep at school. These shoes will be kept above the coat hooks and used for Gym class. Please be sure to label your child's Gym shoes.

Busy Week

Each week I will create a Busy Week sheet for your child. It will contain basic homework expectations as well as any special events planned and general notes to parents. I will use this as a means of Daily Communication. I ask that if you have questions or concerns you write them on the Busy Week sheet as I will check them each morning. I will also write notes for you on the Busy Week sheet if something comes up. It will be your child's responsibility to have you check and initial their Busy Week **EACH** night.

Daily Behavior Apples

On the Busy Week sheet you will notice an apple for each day. When your child makes a poor choice during the day they will be asked to move their name from the green apple to yellow, orange or red. If their behavior improves I will move their name back to green. At the end of the day your child will color the apple on their Busy Week according to where they ended the day. If the apple is not green I will write a brief note to let you know what happened in class. I ask that you discuss the behavior with your child.

Spelling

We use the Foundations spelling and phonics program. Each unit will last 1-3 weeks. At the beginning of each unit I will send a letter home that explains the skills I will introduce. I ask that you spend *5 minutes each night* working on spelling assignments or trick words. Prior to each unit test I will also send a Review sheet home. The Review will include the words on the test as well as several extra words. The philosophy of Foundations is that we are teaching the students how to use the language and spelling patterns, not just to memorize words.

Reading

Reading is taught on an individual and small group basis. All children are reading at varying levels. I will evaluate your child and work with them at their level. I will teach the children a variety of reading strategies. *Please try to reinforce these strategies at home.*

*For more detailed information please refer to the Balanced Reading Program sheet.

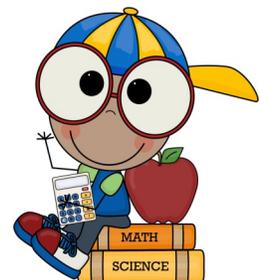
Writing

It is important for our children to realize that we write to convey a message. We begin by writing letters/sounds we hear in words and move forward from there. Please know that too much emphasis on spelling inhibits the writing process. Therefore, every misspelled word will NOT be corrected unless it is a word the students have learned and should know.

Children will experience writing through shared writing, guided writing, independent writing and word work lessons.

Weekend News Reports

Each Monday during Writer's Workshop the boys and girls will be writing about their weekend. I will read the reports and then send them home on Tuesday. Attached to their report will be a form completed by me. Please spend just a few minutes reading over the news with your child and helping them to correct/practice the "I need to work on" skills with a *colored pencil or blue pen*. The corrected reports will be due back to school on Wednesday.



Math

LOLO uses the Math Expressions math series. This series is aligned with the GRACE education standards and focuses on understanding, explaining and applying mathematical processes. There is a great deal of discussion and practice during each lesson. At the beginning of each unit I will send a Family Letter home explaining the concepts covered in the unit. Children will also have a homework sheet after each lesson. I will teach new lessons Monday through Friday.

Homework

Your child will have homework Monday through Thursday. Homework will include: Weekend News, spelling practice, math practice and reading. I may also assign activities that align with our content studies periodically. My expectations are as follows:

First Grade- 15 min of reading and 15 min spelling/math

****If your child is struggling with the math homework PLEASE DO NOT work for a half hour on it. Instead, spend the 10 or 15 min then write a quick note letting me know it was too hard/confusing.**

Names

Names should be put on anything you send to school. This includes backpacks, jackets, mittens, hats, boots and fleece. This will cut down on the number of items in the Lost and Found.

Book Orders

I will send book orders home throughout the year. You are in no way obligated to purchase books. If you choose to order books for your child you may order online using our classroom code or send a check payable to Scholastic.

Snacks

We will have a snack each day. I ask that each child bring in **two boxes of snack to share** to begin the year. When our snacks dwindle I will send another request. Please reference the Daily Snack sheet for acceptable snack items or the snacksafely website (<http://snacksafely.com/snacklist.pdf>). If a snack is not safe for ALL students it will not be served in the classroom . Thank you for your cooperation.

Birthday Treats

We will NOT be celebrating birthdays with treats in the classroom this year (*Please reference the OLOL birthday treat letter). On your child's birthday we will celebrate by singing to them in the classroom. They will also hear their name on the announcements and receive a special gift from me as well as student council and a N.U.T card from the office..



I look forward to working with you and your family this year!
Mrs. Johnson