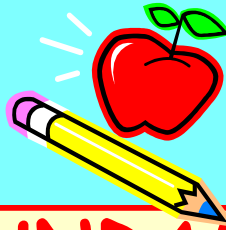




DECEMBER  
2018



Ps 221Q

North Hills School  
Little Neck, NY  
PS221Q.org

Principal: Patricia Bullard  
Asst. Principal: Karen Strauzer

# FIRST GRADE FUNDAMENTALS

*J. Palermo, J. Rivera, K. Sersen, M. Maguire, L. Magone, G. Macaluso*

## MATH:

**Big Ideas:** How do you solve subtraction problems?

How can relating addition and subtraction help you to learn and understand facts within 20?

Use count back 1, 2, 3 as a strategy to subtract

Use addition as a strategy to subtract numbers within 20

- Use "make a 10" as a strategy to subtract
- Identify related addition and subtraction facts within 20
- Use a related fact to subtract
- Represent equivalent forms of numbers using sums and differences within 20
- Add and subtract facts within 20 and demonstrate fluency for addition and subtraction within 10

### Help Your Child:

- Review related facts at home by making index cards:  
Ex:  $9 + 6 = 15$   
 $15 - 9 = 6$
- Use index cards to play a game - show one word and have your child find the missing related fact index card
- Review math vocabulary words

## SOCIAL STUDIES:- Families Continued

### Big Ideas: Family Celebrations & Communities

- Traditions reflect the ideas and past history of a family.
- Families have cultural similarities and differences.
- Families live in different kinds of communities.

### Help Your Child:

- Discuss your families special traditions and celebrations especially during this time of the year
- Discuss the type of community you live in

## READING:

### Big Ideas: Recreation & Travel

- Students will be exposed to information texts and fantasy.
- Readers will work on target skills, which include story structure. They will use the characters, setting, and plot to learn more about who is in a story, where they are, and what they do.
- Students will analyze and evaluate a story using text evidence to support their claim.

### Help Your Child:

- Review the differences between fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Practice noticing character's actions, setting, and plot in the books the students take home.
- Practice retelling a story including beginning, middle, and end.
- Ask your child how they feel about a text. Ask them to use text evidence to support their claim

## WRITING: Informational Writing-"Expert" Books

### Big Ideas:

- Writers will be getting ready to teach all about a topic
- Writers will be planning their sections or chapters
- Writers will also be learning about the different text features

### Help your Child:

- By reading informational books and asking, "What facts did we learn from this?"
- By encouraging them to use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence
- By encouraging them to use punctuation at the end of a sentence, such as a period (.), question mark (?), or exclamation point (!)

## SCIENCE- Animal and Plant Defenses Cont.

### Big Ideas: STEAM Project

- Students will learn the STEAM process (*Ask Questions, Plan, Imagine, Create, Improve*)
- Student will work as a team to create a shell and armor model with various materials to model how living things can use shells or armor to defend themselves from being eaten.

### Help Your Child:

- Take your child to the Zoo or Alley Pond Environmental Center and discuss animal defenses while you are there.

## **Music - Mrs. Gleboski**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Music we are playing more challenging rhythmic patterns on unpitched percussion instruments and learning solfege syllables with simple melodies. Encourage your child to show you what they've learned by singing the syllables "sol" and "mi", or have them keep the beat on their knees while listening to their favorite music! Some fun games that you can talk to your child about include "Sol-La-Mi" and "Name That Tune!"



## **Computers- Mr. Caniano**

In December, our first graders will begin using *Raz Kids*. *Raz Kids* is an online, leveled library with grade appropriate books for each student. Many of the books also have built in activities and sound. We will also be working on Code.org Course One as part of Computer Science For All Week. Specifically, our lessons will be on sequence and creating shapes with code. Usernames and passwords were sent home earlier this year. Please contact me if you have any issues logging into your Code.org account from home.

## **ART-Ms. Pecoraro**

Students will create a colorful painting in the style of Artist Alma Thomas!

### Supporting the Arts at Home:

Take a nature walk and discover all of the organic shapes found outside. These curvy, natural shapes can be found in leaves, trees, pumpkins, clouds, puddles, etc.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Family Art Night is scheduled for Thursday January 24, 2019.

## **Sanford Harmony**

### **Big Idea: Empathy and Critical Thinking**

- Students will recognize their feelings and how various emotions look, sound and feel
- Children will discuss the relations among thoughts feelings and behaviors

### **Help Your Child:**

- Have your child explain the Mood Meter
- Make a Mood Meter for home and ask your child to "Check In." How are they feeling?
  - Red- Angry
  - Blue- Sad
  - Green- Calm
  - Yellow- Happy

## **Physical Education - Mr. Stewart**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders will continue to work on their movement skills, body control, spatial awareness, and object manipulation. We will work in various stations that are designed so students receive the optimal amount of skill development. Students will work at 4-5 different stations that have different games, drills and exercises. This month's focus will be skills related to traditional sports like basketball and soccer dribbling.



## **WORD WORK:**

### **Big Ideas: short u and double consonant (ck and ll)**

•Students will practice weekly words and shared reading texts to increase their fluency of short u and double consonant words.

Help your child:

- Go over short u and double consonant words
- Check your child's sentences for proper use of weekly words
- Practice "Dolch Sight Word" Packet that was given out at conferences.

### **Looking Ahead:**

- **Holiday Gift Fair- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**
- **Photo Re-Take Day- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**
- **First Grade Holiday Party- TBA**
- **No School-Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Happy Holidays!!**