

September, 2017

Dear First Grade Families,

Welcome to Grade One!!

Throughout the year, students will develop their skills as readers, writers and thinkers across the curriculum. This letter will describe the focus of the first literacy unit and what you can do at home to support your student's learning. You will receive a similar letter before each unit.

Focus

This first unit will help develop independent readers and writers who think about the skills and strategies they use when reading and writing. Students will read and retell stories and write about small moments of their lives. They will learn to tell about the characters and events in stories, as well as the message of the story. As writers, they will continue using writing as a way to communicate important ideas. Additionally, students will continue to develop their reading and writing behaviors and identities.

Home Support

You can help your child at home in several ways:

- Read to and with your child every night.
- Talk with your child about what they read and write. Ask about:
 - The main character (Who are they? What are they like?)
 - Where and when does the story takes place? (setting)
 - What important events happen to the character? (most stories have a clear events and a problem)
 - What lesson did the character learn?
- Find the best time and place for homework and establish a routine.
- Talk to your child about his/her day at school. Share the day's ups and downs.
- Look at the work your child brings home. Praise your child for his/her hard work!

We're looking forward to a year of discovery and new learning!

Sincerely,

The Grade One Team