

## Mr. Dalton's First Grade Journal Topics

### September:

- 13<sup>th</sup> – National Courtesy Month –purpose to encourage people to be nice to each other. Write something nice about someone you know.
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Design a poster for National Courtesy Month.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Write three courtesy words and use them in a sentence.
- 16<sup>th</sup> – National Play-Doh Day (First introduced in 1955) – name three things you can make with play-doh and illustrate.
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Citizenship Day –count vowels/consonants in the word citizenship. Finish: Being a good citizen means \_\_\_\_\_.
- 20<sup>th</sup> – National Honey month – in ancient times jars of honey was a sign of wealth. Draw and label things that show wealth today.
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Bees store honey in 6-sided shape (hexagon) Draw and label a six sided shape.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ice Cream Cone's B-day. Draw a cone with 4 scoops (label them by tens) What shape is a cone? How many scoops on single, double, triple scoop?
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Autumn has begun (22<sup>nd</sup>) Draw an autumn tree and list all the colors of fall.
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Jim Henson's B-day (created the Muppets) Draw a picture of your favorite Muppet or create a new character/name/why do you like this character?
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Dog Week – Dogs have lived with people 10,000 years longer than any other animal. Write about an animal you would like to live with and why?
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 1 Dog year = 7 people years Design your own math problem.
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Make a list of all the dogs you know.
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Make up a math problem about dogs.

### October:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Write about your pet.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> was Charlie Brown/Snoopy's b-day, 1<sup>st</sup> published in 1950 by Charles Shultz. Draw pictures of characters and label them.
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Fire Prevention Week (anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871) Design a fire safety poster.
- 6<sup>th</sup> – List five ways to prevent fires.
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Write a plan on what to do in your home in case of a fire.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Energy Awareness Month – write as many things you know that uses energy. Write a list of words that rhyme with light.
- 11<sup>th</sup> – National School Lunch Week (good nutrition) Write a Thank-You note to the school cafeteria workers.
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day (arrival in Caribbean Island – Draw pictures of the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria and make a list of some of the new things you think he saw.
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Family History Month – pass on family stories, customs, and traditions. Write a funny story that happened to your family.
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Write about one of your family customs.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Poetry Day! Write a rhyming poem using the words cat and bat. Write a poem about yourself.
- 18<sup>th</sup> – On 16<sup>th</sup> (In 1758 Noah Webster was born) Look up the word pumpkin – write the definition and write a story about a pumpkin.

19<sup>th</sup> – Dental Hygiene Week – importance of preventive dental care. List three things you can do to prevent cavities.

20<sup>th</sup> – “The Greatest Show on Earth” P.T. Barnum introduced the first circus (1871). Draw three rings of acts going on and make a list of five circus words.

21<sup>st</sup> – Dental Hygiene – Design a poster showing how to properly brush your teeth.

22<sup>nd</sup> – National Popcorn and Popping Month – celebration of popcorn as a wholesome, economical, and natural food. Write a math problem about popcorn.

24<sup>th</sup> – United Nations Day (how it works for world peace) Write a poem about peace.

26<sup>th</sup> – National Clock Month (realize the importance clocks play in our lives) Draw a clock and list what time it is when you complete the clock. List what time you go to bed, get up, go to school, eat lunch, go home, etc.

27<sup>th</sup> – Theodore Roosevelt our 26<sup>th</sup> president was born in 1858. “Teddy” was his nickname. Do you have a nickname? How did you get this nickname? If not, design your own teddy bear.

28<sup>th</sup> – National Pizza Month – (called America’s #1 Fun Food!) Draw your favorite pizza and show it cut into different fractions (halves, fourths, eighths, etc.)

29<sup>th</sup> – Halloween is a holiday (31<sup>st</sup>) celebrated with trick or treating and dressing up in costume. Draw a huge spider with eight legs- on each leg write a math problem and solve.

November:

1<sup>st</sup> – National Author’s Day. Make a list of your favorite authors and draw what you think they look like.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Election Day. Write the name of the president of the U.S. Why would you be a good president?

3<sup>rd</sup> – B-day of Earl of Sandwich (John Montagu inventor of the sandwich) Write a recipe of your favorite sandwich – make a list of places you can buy a sandwich.

4<sup>th</sup> – World Communication Week – emphasis of importance of communication. Write about a country you would like to visit and why?

5<sup>th</sup> – On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1874 the elephant first appeared in a political cartoon in a magazine. It remains a symbol of the Republican Party. What could be a good symbol for our school? What does it mean?

8<sup>th</sup> – Native American Indian Heritage Month – write a description on how the Native Americans helped the first settlers in America.

9<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Boone most famous pioneer of colonial times was born November 2, 1734. He died in 1820. How old was he? He began to hunt at age 12, what was the year?

10<sup>th</sup> – November 12, 1892 the first professional football player (William “Pudge” Heffelfinger) was paid \$25 for expenses and a cash bonus of \$500. Create a math problem using footballs.

11<sup>th</sup> – Third Thursday of November of the month is the Great American Smoke out. Why is smoking bad for you? Write a letter to someone you know asking them to stop smoking.

12<sup>th</sup> – On 21<sup>st</sup> World “Hello” Day. Greet ten people to promote peace through personal communication / write about things that look peaceful.

15<sup>th</sup> – National Children’s Book Week – encourage children to read for pleasure. Write a story about your favorite book character.

- 16<sup>th</sup> – On November 15, 1950, Arthur Dorrington became the first African American to play organized hockey in the U.S. What would you like to be the first to do?
- 17<sup>th</sup> – American Education Week – Who is your favorite teacher? Why? Favorite subject in school? Why?
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Mickey Mouse first appeared November 18, 1928 in a film called “Steamboat Willie.” Write the names of Mickey’s friends. Write the names of the states you could go see Mickey and his friends.
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Why is it important to get a good education?
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Latin American Week – Draw a picture of you in Mexico – how would it be alike/different?
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – What can we learn from other cultures?
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving topics – what do you eat? What are you thankful for? Etc.
- 29<sup>th</sup> – National Game/Puzzle Week – appreciate the time it helps you share with family/friends. Invent a new game you could play with them.
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Aviation History Month - dedicated to Science of Aviation and the flight of two French brothers in November of 1782. These experiments led to the invention of the hot air balloon. Design a new flying machine – what is its’ name and where would you fly?

December:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – “Las Posada” Mexican celebration of journey of Mary and Joseph as they searched for Bethlehem. There are masses of people outside the church on the 16<sup>th</sup> for nine days. The piñata is part of the celebration. Design a piñata and what would be inside?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Hanukkah Jewish Festival of Lights (8 day celebration) light in the temple lasted 8 days with only enough oil for 1 more day until they made more. Write a list of people and what you would like to give them.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kwanzaa – African American celebration began in 1966. Recognizes harvest festivals and stresses the unity of family. Seven day celebration begins 26<sup>th</sup>- Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Harvest feast is on the 7<sup>th</sup> day – write a list of foods you would like included.
- 6<sup>th</sup> – One of most honored saints is recognized St. Nicholas Day. Write about your best present make a list when you give presents.
- 7<sup>th</sup> – December 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor (3,000 died and this caused the U.S. to enter World War II. Draw Hawaii and the islands – how many? How is it different from TN?
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Bingo B-day month (Edwin S. Lowe in 1929) BINGO Acrostic Poem.
- 9<sup>th</sup> – winter begins on the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. Write what you can do in the winter.
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Draw a snowflake – how many points – write a poem about snow.
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Write about different types of weather.
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Poinsettia Day! Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett introduced the plant to U.S. He died on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Make a list of things plants need in order to grow.
- 13<sup>th</sup> – You are doing a good job week! Write three people you think are doing a good job and why? Write about something you do well.
- 14<sup>th</sup> – South Pole discovered in 1911. Roald Amundsen and four companions discovered it. What are some animals you think live in the South Pole?
- 15<sup>th</sup> – On the 15<sup>th</sup> in 1791, the first ten amendments known as the Bill of Rights was added to the constitution. What is the definition of amendment? Write three words that rhyme with right.

16<sup>th</sup> – Eat what you want day! Make a list of your favorite foods.

17<sup>th</sup> – On the 17<sup>th</sup> of 1903, Orville/Wilbur Wright flew the first power controlled airplane – it was less than a minute. How many seconds in a minute? How many hours in a day? Remaining Days can be used for holiday writing.

January:

3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> was New Year's Day – Write a new year's resolution.

4<sup>th</sup> – Louis Braille inventor of the touch system of reading/writing for the blind was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of 1809. If someone blind wanted to know what you wanted to look like, write down what you would tell the person.

5<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1, 1752 Betsy Ross believed to have created the 1<sup>st</sup> stars/stripes flag. Draw the U.S. flag. Why 50 stars and 13 stripes?

6<sup>th</sup> – On Jan 4, 1838 Charles Stratton (Tom Thumb) the world's most famous little person was born. He was 3 feet 4 inches and weighed 70 pounds. What would you do if you were small? How would things be different?

7<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Everyman's Birthday! In some countries a year is added to everyone instead of a true birthday. How old are you? When is your b-day? How old will you be in 5, 10, 20 years?

10<sup>th</sup> – In 1901, oil was discovered in Texas. Write about something you would see in TX you would not see here in TN. List of animals? Different uses of oil?

11<sup>th</sup> – National Thank You Day! Say thank you to someone who has done something nice for you. Write a thank you note.

12<sup>th</sup> – Write a letter to a friend.

13<sup>th</sup> – Write a letter to a teacher.

14<sup>th</sup> – Jan 15, 1929 MLK Jr. B-day (civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner) Write how he made a difference in the lives of others.

15<sup>th</sup> – Write about other famous African-Americans.

17<sup>th</sup> – Third Monday of the month is Elementary Teacher's Day. How many teachers are at your school? How many male teachers?

18<sup>th</sup> – A.A. Milne author of Winnie the Pooh was born in 1882. Write a new Winnie the Pooh story. Finish: One day, Pooh and I saw \_\_\_\_\_.

19<sup>th</sup> – Ben Franklin was born Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1706. He invented bifocal glasses, lightning rod, Franklin stove, and experimented with electricity. What would you like to invent?

20<sup>th</sup> – Inauguration Day! Term of the president begins. Write what you would do for your country if you were president.

21<sup>st</sup> – Yesterday, 20th, was National Hat Day! Draw and label people who wear hats to work. Design a "state" hat.

23<sup>rd</sup> – National Handwriting Day (John Hancock's B-day) encourages best handwriting practice. Write your complete name ten times perfectly.

24<sup>th</sup> – In 1848, in California, gold was accidentally discovered. This became "Gold Rush." What would you do if you found a bag of gold? Make a list of things made from gold.

25<sup>th</sup> – National Eye Care Month – Draw your eye (one of the five senses) What are the other four? Write five words that rhyme with eye.

26<sup>th</sup> – National Pie Day is January 23<sup>rd</sup>. List different types of pies. Draw and divide them into fractions.

- 27<sup>th</sup> – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 (one of the world's greatest composers) Write about your favorite musician, song, musical instrument, etc.
- 28<sup>th</sup> – What instrument would you like to learn to play and why?
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Write about someone you know who plays an instrument.
- 31<sup>st</sup> – In 1971, astronauts Alan B. Shepard, Edgar D. Mitchell were launched on a mission to land on the moon (Apollo 14). Imagine you were on Apollo 14 – describe your trip.

February:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – National Freedom Day! On Feb 1, 1895, Abe Lincoln approved 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment of US Constitution abolishing slavery. Make a collage of all the things you are free to do.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Humpback Whale Awareness Month - they grow no longer than 50 feet – draw a whale one foot long. Flippers are 1/3 as long as the body. Draw a square and divide into three equal parts.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Write a story about a pretend ride you took on a whale.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Charles Lindbergh's B-day. He was the first person to fly solo and nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean. Write a math problem about this flight or airplanes.
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts of America Week – Teaches about being a good citizen. Write a way in which you are a good citizen. How can you be a good leader?
- 8<sup>th</sup> – National Pet Owner's Month – encourages taking better care of your pet and what joy it can bring. Graph how many have a dog, cat, or both.
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Write a word problem about pets.
- 10<sup>th</sup> – A bag of dog food holds 8 cups, your dog eats ½ cup a day, how many days will it take for the bag to be empty?
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Edison B-day (1847) famous scientist/inventor. Write about the best invention ever.
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Draw a large heart and fill it with words that you remind you of Valentine's Day.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – China Lantern Festival – 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Chinese lunar calendar and the 1<sup>st</sup> month. Lantern processions which make up the end of the Chinese New Year. Write about a traditional festival in our country.
- 16<sup>th</sup> – National Wild Bird Feeding Month – provide water, food, and shelter to these birds who have a tough time surviving winter. Draw a picture of your favorite bird and list what they like to eat.
- 17<sup>th</sup> – African-American History Month – write about an African American you admire.
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Planet Pluto (or what was thought to be a planet) was discovered. List the other planets and what you would name a new planet.
- 20<sup>th</sup> – In 1962, John Glenn, Jr. became the first American and third man to orbit the Earth. It is 24,500 miles around the Earth – how many miles did he travel? (Listening strategy)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – What do you think his experience was like?
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – George Washington our 1<sup>st</sup> president was born in 1732. Finish this sentence: I would be a great president because \_\_\_\_\_.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – The 20<sup>th</sup> was also Student Volunteer Day a time to donate time to helping others and their communities. Write how you can help your community?
- 24<sup>th</sup> – National Pancake Week! Write a story about pancakes that rolled off your plate. Write about your favorite breakfast foods.

25<sup>th</sup> – Grand Canyon National Park was established on Feb. 26, 1919. Find it on a map and write the name of the state it is located in. What would it look like from an airplane?  
28<sup>th</sup> – National Friendship Week – draw a symbol representing friendship. Using a strip of paper, make a friendship bracelet for someone.

March:

1<sup>st</sup> – Physical Education/Sports Week! Encourages people to get involved in athletic activity. Draw a variety of sports balls – make a math problem. Find out a friend's favorite sport and write a sentence.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Dr. Seuss' B-Day! Title of your favorite Seuss book and why? What would be another funny title for the book? Favorite character?

3<sup>rd</sup> – Alexander Graham Bell's B-day (invented the telephone) Write your phone #, emergency #, then draw and write a sentence about a phone 100 years from now.

4<sup>th</sup> – March 3, 1845 Florida became the 27<sup>th</sup> state. Draw FL and TN and make a list of things you can do in each state.

7<sup>th</sup> – TV Turn off Week! Encourages doing other things. Write about other things you can do and calculate how much you watch TV in one week.

8<sup>th</sup> – Girl Scout Week (organization founded March 12, 1912 for girls 5-17 years old). What do they do? What is something yummy they sell?

9<sup>th</sup> – Uncle Sam, symbol of the U.S., first appeared with stars/stripes on March 13, 1830. Draw another symbol of our country. What could be a symbol of our classroom and why?

10<sup>th</sup> – In 1862, on this day, the first paper money was issued in the U.S. Alexander Hamilton appears on the \$10 bill – what could you buy with \$10? Who appears on the \$1, \$5, and \$20 bill?

11<sup>th</sup> – Planet Uranus was discovered on March 13, 1781 by Sir William Herschel. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> planet from the Sun and was 1,783,800,000 miles from the Sun. Put the other planets in order.

14<sup>th</sup> – National Wildlife Month (from oceans to mountains). Make a list of jungle animals and a sentence of your favorite wild animal and why?

15<sup>th</sup> – Finish: One day, I was walking in the forest and I met a tiny \_\_\_\_\_.

16<sup>th</sup> – Why can wild animals not be pets? If they could, what would be your pet?

17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day! Bishop Patrick the saint of Ireland is honored. Draw the symbol you often see. What color do you wear? Write about a leprechaun.

18<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time (first introduced on March 31, 1918). What changes does this new time bring?

21<sup>st</sup> – Earth Day! (Can be the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>) The sun crosses the equator signaling the beginning of Spring in NH and autumn in the SH. List ways we can care for the Earth.

22<sup>nd</sup> – Music in our schools month – Why do you think music is important?

23<sup>rd</sup> – Write about your favorite kind of music and why?

24<sup>th</sup> – What is your favorite song and illustrate that song.

25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Youth Art Month – Show famous paintings and art. Let them free write, draw, color, paint, be creative!

31<sup>st</sup> – Eiffel Tower Anniversary (built in 1889 for the Paris exhibitions) Draw a picture of a famous U.S. landmark – Design a new one for our city or state.

April:

1<sup>st</sup> – April Fool’s Day. One day when I was playing a trick on my friend .....

Write about a trick someone played on you.

2<sup>nd</sup> – International Children’s Book Day – B-day of Hans Christian Anderson. Write the name of your favorite author – create a new cover for your favorite book.

3<sup>rd</sup> – National Library Week – Who works in our library? Write a thank you note to the librarian.

6<sup>th</sup> – April 6, 1909, Robert E. Peary discovered The North Pole. What could you do at the NP? Peary used a dog sled/team to get there – illustrate this happening.

7<sup>th</sup> – Keep America Beautiful Month – prevent litter/improve the environment. What ways can you help the environment? Design a new bumper sticker for “Keep America Beautiful.”

8<sup>th</sup> – April 10, 1872 was the first Arbor Day in Nebraska – this day was set aside to plant trees. Write three ways trees are important for our planet. List three things made from trees.

11<sup>th</sup> – National Coin Week – always the middle of April each year. Draw and illustrate (include value) of each coin. Draw six coins that would add up to ten cents. Design a new coin.

12<sup>th</sup> – Math Education Month – focus on the importance Math plays in our lives. Write three ways you use Math everyday. Write a math problem about your family.

13<sup>th</sup> – National Week of the Ocean – Humanity’s interdependence with the oceans of the world. Write about what you would do at the beach. What is the ocean of the East Coast? West Coast?

14<sup>th</sup> – April 2, 1792 Philadelphia, PA (mint) Mint is a homograph –define different meanings. Design a new bill – how much is it worth? How can you earn allowance?

15<sup>th</sup> – Rubber Eraser Day! In 1770, an English chemist discovered a small piece of latex could erase pencil marks. Explain why erasers are important. (Give each student an eraser).

18<sup>th</sup> – National Bubble Gum Week! What is your favorite type of gum? Finish: When I looked at the bubble I blew, I saw.....

19<sup>th</sup> – Read a Road Map Week – Draw a map from our school to where you live.

20<sup>th</sup> – April 18<sup>th</sup> was Look-Alike Day. Write about who you think you look like. Finish: When I drank the magic potion, I looked in the mirror and saw....

21<sup>st</sup> – Pet ID week – encourage people to properly identify their pets. Write about your pet and the importance of having an ID.

22<sup>nd</sup> – National Humor Month – used to celebrate the importance of joy and laughter in our lives. Laughter reduces stress – describe something that causes you to be stressed. Write a knock-knock joke or other type of joke.

25<sup>th</sup> – National Science/Technology Week – Write about a technological item you would have a hard time living without.

26<sup>th</sup> – Paul Revere’s Ride on April 18, 1775 – famous ride from Boston, MA to Concord to warn the American Patriots that the British were coming. Who do you know that helps others? Explain.

27<sup>th</sup> – National Volunteer Week. Write thank you notes for our school’s volunteers.

28<sup>th</sup> – Make a poster showing people volunteering in their community and helping in someway.

29<sup>th</sup> – Who are some other volunteers, what do they do? Why are we called the TN volunteers?

May:

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> – National Pet Week – promote public awareness of taking pets to a vet regularly. Write a story about being a vet.

3<sup>rd</sup> – National Teacher Day (always the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday) Write a thank you note to last year's teacher. Write a poem about your teacher.

4<sup>th</sup> – National Weather Observer's Day – predict tomorrow's weather and illustrate.

5<sup>th</sup> – May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard, Jr. became the 1<sup>st</sup> US astronaut in space. Design a spaceship and describe where it will take you.

6<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup> (Cinco de Mayo) parades, festivals, dances, and speeches celebrating Mexican victory over the French in 1862. Cinco means five. Write other Spanish words.

9<sup>th</sup> – National Postcard Week – Design a postcard of your city/town, write to a friend, and list names of places you would like to get a postcard from.

10<sup>th</sup> – National Police Week established in 1963 to honor those who protect us. Write about four things they do to protect us.

11<sup>th</sup> – Write about the best trip you ever took.

12<sup>th</sup> – National Bike Month – great transportation and recreation. Bi means two, what does tri mean? Draw a speed limit sign for bicyclists. How fast (miles per hour) do you think you can ride?

13<sup>th</sup> – Jamestown, VA founded May 14, 1607 (1<sup>st</sup> permanent English settlement). Write the names of five other states. What states border the state of TN? The settlers were from England (continent of Europe) what continent do we live on?

16<sup>th</sup> – National Transportation Week – focus on ways we travel from one place to another. Write a list of all the transportation you can think of and illustrate.

17<sup>th</sup> – Last Monday in May is Memorial Day – honor those who have died in battle. Draw the US flag – what are some things people do on Memorial Day.

18<sup>th</sup> – List three reasons why exercise is good for you.

19<sup>th</sup> – List your ten favorite activities and why?

20<sup>th</sup> – Amelia Earhart crossed the Atlantic Ocean – 1<sup>st</sup> woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. This was a two day flight to Ireland. Is the Atlantic on the east/west coast? What are the names of the other oceans?

\*\*\* The remaining days can focus on plans for their summer vacation.