

[Week of 10-3-16](#)

[Week of 10-10-16](#)

[Week of 10-17-16](#)

[Week of 10-24-16](#)

[Week of 10-31-16](#)

[Week of 11-7-16](#)

[Week of 11-14-16](#)

[Week of 11-28-16](#)

[Week of 12-5-16](#)

[Week of 12-5-16](#)

[Week of 12-12-16](#)

[Week of 1-30-17](#)

Week of 10-3-16



Writing: We will be working on our independence and stamina during writing time, and we will continue to be guided in finding ideas for writing in our experiences, the things we have learned about, and most importantly, in our hearts. This will be our first full week of writing in our new writer's notebooks!

Math: We are nearing the end of our first math unit, and deepening our understanding of addition concepts and we're really working on using math language to talk about addition. Your first grader should be able to recognize, understand, and use vocabulary like parts, whole, sum, and addition number sentence.

Science: Goodbye North America, and welcome to Asia! This week we will be learning about the giant panda, which I recently learned, is no longer endangered! (Click [here](#) to find out more!) We also are focusing on a new social skill. Our NEW teams will be able to earn points for demonstrating self-control.

Social Studies: This week, we'll be reviewing the world map and some of its important features, like the legend and compass rose. We'll learn about another special tradition in America—fireworks on the 4th of July— and what fireworks symbolize!

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words!

Important reminders:

- Scholastic orders will be submitted Friday, September 30!
- You can still submit field trip donations (\$35 to NAEF)!
- No school Friday, October 7! (Fall Break October 7-11)

Week of 10-10-16



Writing: We will be discussing three big types of writing: informative, narrative, and opinion, and how we do each type for a different purpose. We've already learned about informative writing, we've talked a little bit about narrative writing, but this will be our first time writing opinion pieces in first grade! When reading books together at home, you might try asking your first grader what he or she thinks the author's purpose was when writing.

Math: We will be beginning a new math unit this week, focusing on subtraction concepts. We'll continue to review vocabulary from our unit on addition that is helpful when working with subtraction problems, too, like parts and whole. We'll also be learning some new words related to subtraction, such as difference, subtraction number sentence, and compare.

Science: We'll learn more about giant pandas, and we'll have a chance to show what we have learned about them in writing. We will also practice making observations, just like real scientists do.

Social Studies: This week in our *A is for America* book, we'll be doing our G page: G is for gold. If you're a 49ers fan, your first grader might come home with a fun fact for you!

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words!

Important reminders:

- Happy Fall Break! No school October 10th and 11th—see you Wednesday, the 12th!
- You can still submit field trip donations (\$35 to NAEF)!
- Ice Cream Scoop Night (5:00) and Stars Parent Group Meeting (6:00) Thursday, October 13th
- Book Fair October 24-28th (more info coming soon!)
- Jog-a-Thon October 26th (more info coming soon!)

Week of 10-17-16

Writing: What is your favorite utensil? This week we'll read one of my favorite books,



[Spoon](#), which will help us to think about which utensils are our favorite to eat with! In addition to this opinion writing, we'll also spend some time talking about word choice, and how thoughtful word choice can make our writing clearer and more interesting.

Math: This week, the kids will hear about Prodigy, a math game, that they'll be able to play at home and at school. You'll receive some information in your child's Friday Folder this week. After launching our

subtraction unit last week and learning some new vocabulary, we are ready to really dive in this week! We will be telling (and writing) subtraction stories, practicing modeling subtraction, and also writing subtraction number sentences this week. Ask your first grader to explain to you the difference between a *subtraction number sentence* and a *subtraction story*.

Science: Get ready to learn all about orangutans with your first grader this week! They live on the Asian islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Social Studies: This week's American symbol is the White House! I don't know about you, but some of my favorite TV shows are set in Washington, D.C. and I love seeing what the White House is like in every episode. The kids will have a chance to virtually tour the home of our president this week.

Kids WIN: This week will be our first week going to our new Kids WIN (What I Need) groups. Every student will now have Language Arts instruction right at his or her own level for thirty minutes, three days each week!

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words!

Important reminders:

- You can still submit field trip donations (\$35 to NAEF)!
- Halloween/Fall celebration Monday, October 31st (click [here](#) to volunteer or to make donations for our party!)

- Book Fair next week, October 24-28th (more info coming soon!)
- Jog-a-Thon October 26th— you should have received a donation envelope and flyer with some info in your child’s Friday Folder!
- Next week (October 24-28) is [Red Ribbon Week!](#)

Week of 10-24-16



Writing: This week we’ll be continuing to practice informative, narrative, and opinion writing. We’ll also experiment with voice and word choice with some of my favorite books by Kevin Henkes, and [Yesterday I Had the Blues](#), by Jeron Ashford Frame.

Math: This week, we’ll continue to learn about subtraction. We’ll talk about subtracting all and subtracting zero. We’ll also learn about vertical subtraction, that subtracting is the same even when it looks a little different! Also, when solving word problems in math, we will talk about the importance of reading carefully and being sure to figure out if you’re being asked to add or subtract before you

worry about any numbers!

Science: Get ready to learn all about peacocks with your first grader this week! Did you know that only males have fancy feathers and that babies are called peachicks?

Social Studies: This week we’ll be listening to a little bit about jazz music, because it started in the United States. We’ll also be finally diving into our chant, “I Can Spell Anthropologist” and talking about what culture is.

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week’s signal words!

Important reminders:

- You can still submit field trip donations (\$35 to NAEF)!
- Halloween/Fall celebration Monday, October 31st (click [here](#) to volunteer or to make donations for our party!)
- Book Fair this week, October 24-28th. Our class will be shopping on Wednesday from 9:30-9:45.
- Jog-a-Thon is this Wednesday, October 26th. Our jogging time is the same as our usual Workout Wednesday time, 10:15-10:45. Come support our joggers!
- It is [Red Ribbon Week!](#)
- Parent-Teacher conferences are November 7-10. Click [here](#) to sign up for a time.

Week of 10-31-16



Writing: This week, the kids will have a few more opportunities to practice informative writing. On Monday, for example, we'll be writing informative pieces about our Halloween costumes!

Math: This week, we'll continue to learn about subtraction. Our big vocabulary word in math this week will be *compare*, and we'll be practicing subtraction to compare groups.

Science: Team tasks! This week, we'll work with our teams to show what we've learned about animals of Asia.

Social Studies: Your first grader can spell "anthropologist!" We will talk a bit more about anthropologists and culture in Asia, and we'll also be learning about our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln!

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words!

Important reminders:

- Halloween/Fall celebration Monday, October 31st: 1:00-2:00 (click [here](#) to view the volunteer and donation sign-up)
- This Tuesday is a minimum day.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are November 7-10, and we'll have minimum days all week, with no late-start Wednesday. Click [here](#) to sign up for a time if you haven't already!
- No school Friday, November 11th.

Week of 11-7-16



Writing: This week we will see and use a little trick that authors can use to make writing more interesting, add emphasis, or show that something is happening for a long time— repetition. If you see repetition while reading with your first grader at home, you might want to point it out!

Math: More subtraction! We have learned about how to model subtraction with manipulatives, and we've practiced drawing a picture or diagram to help us solve subtraction problems. We are still trying to master our subtraction vocabulary words like subtract, difference, compare, part, whole, and subtraction number sentence. See if your first grader can understand or even use some of these words at dinner or playtime.

Science: We're learning with Ms. D this week, and she can't wait to teach us about our first reptile, Asia's king cobra! Get ready for some creepy facts and cool new signal words!

Social Studies: It all started with a mouse! Mickey Mouse and Walt Disney are a special part of American culture.

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words!

Important reminders:

- Parent-Teacher conferences are this week, and we'll have minimum days all week, with no late-start Wednesday. Click [here](#) to sign up for a time if you haven't already!
- No school Friday, November 11th.

Week of 11-14-16



Writing: We'll process our thinking and learning about the Great Wall of China through writing this week. We'll also read a funny story, *Turkey Trouble*, and write about it. We will also read a new book, *Solutions for Cold Feet and Other Little Problems*, and write about our own problems and solutions. Lastly, what are you thankful for? Maybe brainstorm some ideas with

your first grader to help them prepare for some writing later in the week.

Math: We are still learning subtraction concepts and working on subtraction vocabulary. This week we'll also be talking about how subtraction and addition are related. Related facts are groups of math facts that use the same three numbers (similar to fact families). During workshop, we'll do some fun Thanksgiving addition and subtraction, and we'll get to build some Thanksgiving shapes with linking cubes.

Science: This week we are engineers! We'll learn about the Design Process, a series of steps we can take to solve problems. Then, given what we know about the Great Wall of China, we'll be designing and building models of walls to keep a panda and an orangutan safe in their own habitats at the zoo. (We would love donations of large cardboard boxes, new jars of play doh, and popsicle sticks by Wednesday if you're able to contribute!)

Social Studies: Last week we celebrated Veteran's Day and next week it will be Thanksgiving! In our America books this week, we will be doing P is for Pilgrim and V is for Veteran. We're really exploring a special part of Asia's culture, the Great Wall of China, too.

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about this week's signal words like construction, disguise, solution, or related facts!

Important reminders:

- If you would like to contribute to our first STEM activity, send in any large cardboard boxes, fresh jars of play-doh, or popsicle sticks/toothpicks! Thanks!
- No school next week (Thanksgiving break)
- Check the [Links for Families](#) page on our class website for links to a printable set of sight word flashcards, a fun printable bookmark with reading strategies, as discussed with some of you last week at conferences.

Week of 11-28-16



Writing: We'll experiment with word choice this week, starting with verbs. We'll read *Move*, to get our brains thinking about interesting verbs, and then we'll get to try using some cool verbs in our own writing!

Math: We are wrapping up our subtraction unit this week. Related facts are math facts with the same three numbers. Understanding how addition and subtraction are related now will help us later when addition and subtraction get a bit more difficult. Mastering this concept requires number sense!

Science: Welcome to Antarctica! We'll be learning about two types of whales this week! Do you know what a cetacean is? (It's a mammal with flippers and flukes that lives in the water!)

Social Studies: We'll be adding Neil Armstrong to our America books this week! He was the first man to walk on the moon.

Just for fun:

Ask your first grader about compassion, our new social skill, or one of our new signal words!

Important reminders:

- First field trip coming soon. Stay on the lookout for a permission slip at the end of this week!
- Check the [Links for Families](#) page on our class website for links to a printable set of sight word flashcards, a fun printable bookmark with reading strategies, as discussed with some of you last week at conferences.

Week of 12-5-16



Writing: This week we will have lots of practice with narrative writing. We will also each do an informative piece on either the blue whale or the orca whale! And new this week! We can choose our own writing spots! Maybe have a conversation with your first grader about how you choose a good spot to work, read, or write. We are all productive— and comfy— in different places!

Math: This week we'll learn/review addition vocabulary like "addends," "number line," and "count on," and we'll review the strategy of counting on to add. Ask your first grader to show you how to count on to add. (*Put the big number in your head, count forward to add!*)

Science: We'll be reviewing our two whales (the orca and blue whale) this week, and we'll meet the emperor penguin!

Social Studies: O is for Oregon Trail! In addition to adding to our America books, we'll also cover some geography concepts this week. We'll review the world map and its continents and oceans, and we'll also talk about the equator and the northern and southern hemispheres. Did you know that penguins only live in the southern hemisphere? (There is actually *one* type of penguin that lives above the equator—ask your first grader to tell you which type!)

Just for fun: Ask your child to do *The Cetacean Bugaloo* for you. All of the chants are up on our [homework site](#)!

Important reminders:

- Esquire IMAX field trip next Tuesday. Please be sure to return your child's permission slip. We would also love field trip donations— checks can be made out to NAEF (either \$10 covering just this trip, or \$35 for the year).
- [Sign up](#) to volunteer in our classroom! There are many spots open, including new morning reading times.
- Scholastic book orders are due online December 12th. If submitted online by the 12th, books will be delivered by the 19th (in case you were thinking of purchasing books for your child to give as holiday gifts!) Scholastic flyers will come home this Friday!

Week of 12-5-16



Writing: This week we will have lots of practice with narrative writing. We will also each do an informative piece on either the blue whale or the orca whale! And new this week! We can choose our own writing spots! Maybe have a conversation with your first grader about how you choose a good spot to work, read, or write. We are all productive— and comfy— in different places!

Math: This week we'll learn/review addition vocabulary like "addends," "number line," and "count on," and we'll review the strategy of counting on to add. Ask your first grader to show you how to count on to add. (*Put the big number in your head, count forward to add!*)

Science: We'll be reviewing our two whales (the orca and blue whale) this week, and we'll meet the emperor penguin!

Social Studies: O is for Oregon Trail! In addition to adding to our America books, we'll also cover some geography concepts this week. We'll review the world map and its continents and oceans, and we'll also talk about the equator and the northern and southern hemispheres. Did you know that penguins only live in the southern hemisphere? (There is actually *one* type of penguin that lives above the equator—ask your first grader to tell you which type!)

Just for fun: Ask your child to do *The Cetacean Bugaloo* for you. All of the chants are up on our [homework site](#)!

Important reminders:

- Esquire IMAX field trip next Tuesday. Please be sure to return your child's permission slip. We would also love field trip donations— checks can be made out to NAEF (either \$10 covering just this trip, or \$35 for the year).
- [Sign up](#) to volunteer in our classroom! There are many spots open, including new morning reading times.
- Scholastic book orders are due online December 12th. If submitted online by the 12th, books will be delivered by the 19th (in case you were thinking of purchasing books for your child to give as holiday gifts!) Scholastic flyers will come home this Friday!

Week of 12-12-16



Writing: This week we will practice some more informative writing, and we'll focus on using different resources to find information to include in our writing, such as books, websites, videos, and of course, all of our charts and chants! We'll also do some writing after our field trip about our day at the IMAX theater. We are really working on slowing down and rereading our writing. At home, it might be fun to do some writing in front of your first grader, and to see if he/she can help you to make it better (by adding punctuation, capital letters, or even adding more information or details).

Math: This week we'll be learning a few more addition strategies, such as using a number line to add, simply knowing doubles facts from memory, or thinking about near doubles facts. ($6+6=12$, so the sum of 6 plus 7 must be one more (13), since 7 is one more than 6!) A little tricky for some kids, but for others, it's totally natural to do mental math like this!

Science: We'll continue to discuss the emperor penguin, and we'll also explore some cool animal adaptations and behaviors, such as blubber, and the way that penguins keep warm in icy Antarctica!

Social Studies: Q is for quill! We will talk a little bit about the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and we'll also see a play put on by one of our 5th grade classes about the constitution. It's fun to see how different writing was (both its appearance and the actual act of writing) in the past!

Just for fun: Ask your child to tell you about some of our signal words. All of the chants are up on our [homework site](#)! Have your child perform sing one or two for you!

Important reminders:

- Esquire IMAX field trip on Tuesday. We'll be viewing Born to Be Wild in 3D! It's a documentary about how humans raise orphaned elephants and orangutans and help them get back to the wild. We talk so much about animal offspring, so the kids will have lots to connect to! We would love field trip donations if you haven't already contributed— checks can be made out to NAEF (either \$10 covering just this trip, or \$35 for the year). Regular arrival and dismissal, and we'll be on campus for our regular lunch time. Kids should wear uniforms as usual.
- [Sign up](#) to volunteer in our classroom! There are many spots open, including new morning reading times.
- Scholastic book orders are due online December 12th. If submitted online by the 12th, books will be delivered by the 19th (in case you were thinking of purchasing books for your child to give as holiday gifts!)

Week of 1-30-17



Writing: We will learn about synonyms this week! Writers make their writing fun to read by avoiding words like “good,” and “bad.” We will practice expressing our opinion about things like books, foods, animals, and more, but we’ll try to use powerful words rather than “good” or “bad.” See if you and your first grader can come up with some synonyms for good and bad at home together.

Math: This week we’ll start our unit on subtraction. Your first graders have practiced “counting on” a lot... time to work backwards. Now we’ll “count back” to subtract.

Science: We are deep in our study of Europe now. Hopefully your first grader has taught you a bit about the hedgehog! We are learning all about animal teeth! Did you know that by looking at an animal’s teeth, you can tell a lot about its diet?

Social Studies: T is for Teddy! The kids will learn who Teddy Roosevelt was during workshop this week. We’ll continue to learn about the Statue of Liberty and what she symbolizes. Have your first grader sing *The Lady Liberty Bugaloo* for you!

Just for fun: Ask your child to tell you about some of our signal words. All of our new Europe chants are up on our [homework site](#)! Have your child perform one or two for you!

Important reminders:

- This Wednesday is [Global School Play Day](#)! Your first grader may bring any toys to school to play with, as long as they are not electronic or battery-powered! No devices. ;) Think Legos, dolls, Barbies, blocks, racetracks/cars, trains, jigsaw puzzles, etc. We will have lots of unstructured play time on Wednesday, as well as some more structured rotations during our normal Workout Wednesday time.
- Our Valentine’s Day Party will be on Tuesday, February 14th. Click [here](#) for more info, to sign up, or to donate.
- Please be sure that your child is continuing to spend some time with books every night! Our homework online is “optional,” but there is lots of research out there that says READING has the biggest impact on student achievement. :) So much of the growth reflected on your child’s report card last week was a direct result of the time spent at home with books and reading.