



**Room 20 News**  
September 2, 2014

Dear Parents,

I hope your child arrived home today excited and enthusiastic about first grade! This is a wonderful class and I am already enjoying getting to know each one of your special first graders. This first week we will be getting to know each other and learning what it is to be a "family of learners". It is important to me that the children learn to work together and take the time to help each other through some of the new challenges and transitions that are such an important part of first grade. These first couple of weeks will also establish a strong foundation for my expectations as well as a routine that runs smoothly within a caring and supportive environment.

Thank you for being so meticulous in providing your children with the right supplies (including headphones!). It really helps to support them in their schoolwork. Stafford is trying to make sure every child has an emergency kit at school, so if you haven't already done so, please send one as soon as possible. **Also, please make sure that if your child is coming home from school a different way on any given day that you fill out a 'bus note' so we can coordinate that with you.**

We will also be embarking upon our curriculum this week and one of our first projects is Alphabet Critters. I am sending home a manila envelope today with the children containing a cutting project for parents. Everybody will be bringing this home and I do so appreciate your prompt attention to this little project as we will be starting our critters this week. **Also, please make**



sure that you check your child's "Backpack Folder" every night for news and other homework items.

We will have a morning snack after recess at 9:10, so remember to include a healthy snack for your child that is not too juicy or messy because we eat these snacks on the carpet...no drinks please.

A couple of more things that I would like to share with you are about birthdays and 'coat wisdom'. In accordance with school policy and to avoid hurt feelings, **please make all birthday party plans and mail birthday invitations from home.** My philosophy on coats is to provide a heavier coat for the bus stop, but to use sweatshirts of lighter coats for recess. Children want to be active at recess and if a bulky coat is hindering movement it will often come off. Wearing a lighter coat or sweatshirt for recess makes it more likely that children will be comfortable and reasonably warm. Remember to put names on the labels of their coats...they do have a way of disappearing!

I hope this information helps. I am looking forward to a great year with your children. As always, please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

See you soon!

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