

April 30, 2020

Dear First Grade Families,

I'm trying to wrap my head around the idea that tomorrow is the first day of May. I think about our classroom calendar at school that still shows March, and how time has stopped in our classroom in the building. My heart is happy knowing that first graders have not stopped learning. Last night I looked through all the pictures and videos you shared with me in April, and while this is far from an ideal learning experience, I'm so grateful for the technology we have that allows us to work together like this.

I was able to visit by phone with several students this week. It was a new experience, and it felt awkward to some, and some could have talked for hours. I was happy to hear those familiar voices and hear the excitement over the learning activities they've enjoyed and the fun family times you're having. I have more phone calls scheduled for next week. If you haven't scheduled a phone visit for your first grader and would like one, please send me an email with good days, times, and phone numbers. I do have Wednesday afternoons blocked off due to scheduled meetings. To help break the ice, I usually start with a few questions like, "Tell me about one of the At Home Learning activities you've liked the most. What have you been doing with your family?" Most phone calls have been about 10 minutes, which feels like the right amount of time. I also ask students if they have questions or want to tell me anything else. The overwhelming response was that first graders miss their friends. Some families are doing Face Time chats or phone calls with friends. I encourage you to consider that if it works for your family. Most teachers are not fans of meetings, but I sure enjoy talking with my work friends during conference calls!

Quite a few first graders wondered about their "stuff" at school. Mrs. Grant has a plan in place that will allow your family to receive your child's supplies and other school materials. More information will be coming regarding that.

Many families are communicating with me weekly. I know some students are working with other teachers (Mrs. Erickson, Mrs. Knutson, and Mrs. Dostal). We know you're all busy and we don't expect scheduled updates, but we do want to know your family is safe and well and you're able to access and use the resources we post each Tuesday. We don't want to overwhelm you and take up your time, but if we haven't been in contact with you for a few weeks, please know I'll be reaching out in individual emails or phone calls tomorrow afternoon.

I just took a look at the weekend weather. I hope you all get outside to have some fun in the sun!

Take care,
Mrs. Bauer