

Hello First Grade Families,

As I sit here preparing to write to you, I'm looking at how much has changed in my view out my window since we first started communicating via email, and I'm amazed at how green and full everything seems. It's refreshing and feels very hopeful.

My daughter-in-law shared with me that it's becoming a challenge to keep our grandson, Carter focused on learning inside with all that green grass and warm fresh air calling to him. I reminded her that learning doesn't have to take place inside.

During a FaceTime call, Carter and I made a list of all the learning that can happen outside. Some of the things we came up included:

- Read outside (while I prefer a chair, Carter decided he's going to take his book to his trampoline).
- Draw a picture of something you see outside and write about it or make up a song about it.
- See how many times you can jump on your pogo stick without stopping. Challenge yourself to do more each time.
- Use sidewalk chalk on the driveway or sidewalk to solve a math problem.
- Use sticks (as ten sticks) and rocks (as ones) to model math problems.

There are also great lessons to be learned while doing chores. First (almost second!) graders can certainly help with yard work (raking, pulling weeds, planting, and watering), washing windows, and sweeping porches and sidewalks. This is a good time to capitalize on all that free labor. 😊

I encourage you to find ways to take learning outside. Explore, explore, explore! So much of learning comes from the conversations we have based on what we observe and do. This is a wonderful time to learn using what we see, hear, smell, and touch.

We know this hasn't been easy, and we thank you for sticking with us. There is no school scheduled tomorrow or Monday, so enjoy your long weekend!

Monica