

# First Grade News



August 2023

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## Welcome to First Grade!

School begins at **7:15** and is dismissed at **2:25**. Please make sure your student arrives on time as we get started on learning activities right away. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria from 7:00 until 7:15 each morning.

## Contact Us

Office: 541 476-2276

Ms. Duke: ext. 1644

Mrs. Lomica: ext. 1645

## Homework

Parental support of this activity is essential. Each week, your child will bring home a newsletter, a refrigerator copy containing spelling, sight and vocabulary words, 4 paper books and a reading log. Please record any reading your child does, including independent reading, or being read to, on the weekly reading log. Homework is given out at the beginning of each week and is due the following Monday. Homework papers should be done by your child and returned in their homework folder. Your child's backpack is used to transport important notes, classwork and homework. Please check it every night. For this reason, please send your child to school with a backpack daily. Homework will begin in a few weeks.

## Supply List

2 boxes crayons 24 count  
Crayola brand  
2 boxes Ticonderoga pencils-  
sharpened  
10 small glue sticks  
1 watercolor paint set-  
Crayola  
1 box colored pencils-  
sharpened  
1 pkg. colored markers  
1 pair pointed Fiskars scissors  
1 pocket folders  
1 spiral bound notebook  
1 school bag/backpack  
1 water bottle  
1 pencil box  
1 pink pearl eraser  
Any 2 of the following:  
1 pkg baby wipes  
1 box Ziploc bags sandwich or  
gallon size

## End of Day

When school is dismissed, all students who are being picked up will wait in the library. Teachers will bring students to cars as parents arrive. All bus riders will go to the bus lines. **Please inform the office by note or phone whenever your child's usual way of getting home is temporarily or permanently changed.** This ensures the safety of all students.

## Snack/Water Bottles

Students will have an opportunity to have a snack during the school day. For the first couple of weeks, snacks will be provided by your child's teacher. We are asking for donations of classroom snacks for the remainder of the year. If you are able to donate store bought, prepackaged, individually wrapped class snacks, it would be greatly appreciated. Ideas may include goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.

**Water Bottles** Our classrooms do not have drinking fountains. To not interrupt our learning we recommend that your child bring a water bottle to school to be kept in the classroom for quick drinks.

## PE

Students will have PE and recess every day. Please have your child wear clothes/shoes appropriate for physical activity such as running, jumping and PE games.



## Student Profile

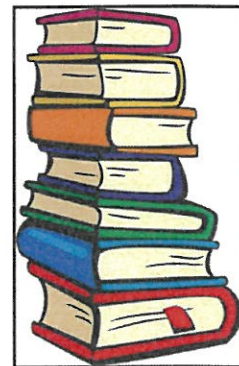
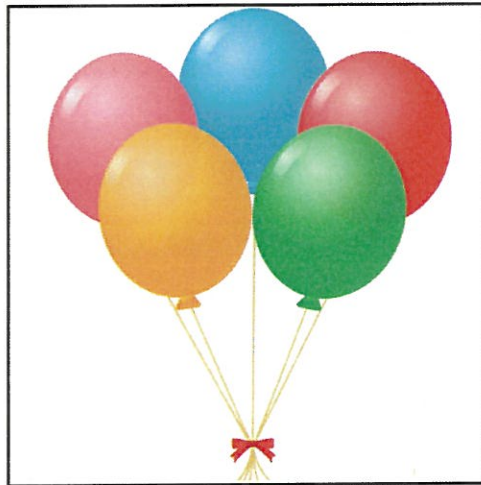
Please complete and return the attached student profile. This really helps us to get to know your child and discover ways that we can better meet his/her needs. Please add any additional information that you believe may affect your child in any way. The more information we have, no matter how insignificant it may seem, helps us make choices that can make a positive difference in your child's education.

## Student of the Week

Throughout the year we will be honoring each member of our class as Student of the Week. The week prior to your student's assigned week he/she will bring home a special about me poster to decorate and fill out information about themselves. When the poster comes home please help your child to complete and return it on time. Thank you!

## Birthday Parties

Birthday parties are a lot of fun and very important happenings for children of this age. We would, however, like to request that if your child has party invitations, please mail them to classmates unless the whole class is invited. This saves hurt feelings by those not invited. If your child wishes to share a treat with the class on his/her birthday, please be respectful of our lesson plans and activities. You must let us know at least a couple of days in advance so we can plan for it. Individual cupcakes, cookies or ice cream treats, rather than whole cakes work out best. **All treats must be store bought and individually wrapped.** If you do not want your child to participate in classroom parties for any reason, please let us know so that we may plan alternate activities on those occasions.



## Birthday Books

It has been a tradition for many years to celebrate birthdays in class with cakes, cookies, or cupcakes. In first grade we would like to have students donate a book of their choice to our class library.

To bring special meaning to your child's birthday, here is an idea to consider. Let your child treat our class to a Birthday Book! It should be a book that your child would like to share with the class. Books should be school and age appropriate. On his or her birthday, your child brings a book (new or used) wrapped in birthday paper and then unwraps it in class. The book then becomes a permanent part of the classroom library. A special bookplate is placed in the front of the book with your child's name.

It is a wonderful way for a child to share their birthday with others and to teach them the joy of giving and sharing. There is, of course, no obligation to participate and you are welcome to celebrate birthdays in the traditional manner.

## About Me

This is my 23rd year at Fruitdale and my 13<sup>th</sup> year in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Exploring the outdoors, and collecting vinyl are two of my favorite things. My husband, Jason, is also an educator and is an Assistant Principal at Grants Pass High School. We have 2 daughters, Alexis who is 22 and Makayla who is 19. Alexis is a manager at Rogue Roasters. Makayla works at Motel Del Rogue and attends RCC where she is working on her degree in Psychology.

## Welcome!!

Hello and welcome to Second grade!! We had a wonderful first week of school! I am so excited to get to know your child and work together to build the most successful second grade year!

## Contact Info

[dawnelle.garcia@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:dawnelle.garcia@threerivers.k12.or.us)  
541-476-2276 ext. 1642

## Favorite Things



- ♥ Mountain Biking      ♥ Hiking
- ♥ Summiting Mountains    ♥ Fall
- ♥ Listening to music on vinyl
- ♥ Reading      ♥ Road Trips
- ♥ National Parks    ♥ Halloween
- ♥ finding heart shaped rocks
- ♥ Exploring    ♥ Camping
- ♥ Thrifting    ♥ Coffee    ♥ Running
- ♥ Broadway Musicals



# Meet the Teacher

# Teacher's Note

Welcome to Second Grade!!! I feel privileged that I get to be your child's teacher. If you can or would ever like to volunteer you must fill out a parent volunteer form on the internet. The form can be found on our district's website. This form does not need to be completed to come to family nights. Please feel free to call or email me anytime you have a question or concern. I am eager to work together with you to make this a wonderful and successful year for your child!

Joyfully, Dawnelle Garcia

## Important Information

[dawnelle.garcia@threeivers.k12.or.us](mailto:dawnelle.garcia@threeivers.k12.or.us)

541-476-2276 ext. 1642

### Homework Folders

Please have your child return this folder daily. I send home many important papers from the front office and the classroom, so it is important to read all paperwork and send the folder back with your child on the following day.

**All About Me Bags** Please return by Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

I look forward to learning more about your child. 😊 I will be having your child share as they come in.

## Daily Schedule

7:15-7:30 Morning Meeting  
 7:30-8:00 PE/Art  
 8:00-8:30 Writing  
 8:30-9:00 Rise and Shine  
 9:00-9:15 Recess  
 9:15-10:30 Math  
 10:30-11:30 Literacy Block  
 11:30-12:00 Math Enrichment  
 12:00-12:40 Lunch  
 12:45-1:15 Reading Small Group  
 1:15-1:45 Science/PE/Health  
 1:45-2:15 Reading Double Dose  
 2:25 Dismiss

## Classroom Pledge

Below is a list of our classroom pledges we will be discussing over the next couple weeks. We will be talking about what role we each play to make a safe classroom environment that provides an opportunity for us all to be successful. Here is a list of our pledges to one another.


- ♥ Never give up on each other
- ♥ Use kind words
- ♥ Treat each other with respect
- ♥ Include everyone
- ♥ Help each other learn
- ♥ Stick up for each other
- ♥ Listen to each other.
- ♥ Apologize and forgive

### Classroom Behavior Rewards

Below is our classroom reward ticket. Please ask your child how they earn a punch on their card and what they get when they fill it up. ♥



# September Newsletter



## Teacher's Note

I have given much thought into my homework policy over the last few years and I have decided that there will be limited homework. I strongly believe that homework can be overwhelming for students and parents. My goal is to NOT create tension between parent and child, but rather encourage conversations based on curiosity. I believe that in the absence of homework students will then have the liberty to seek out knowledge on their own. As I teach, I always encourage my students to make connections to what they are learning. I look forward to seeing and hearing the connections your child makes throughout the year. I am looking forward to a year full of success and growth while working in partnership with you!

## Family Homework Projects

Throughout the year I will be assigning family projects. I believe that the most useful and satisfying activities that a child can do is one spent in the company of a grown-up. Rather it be playing board games, cooking, being outdoors, reading, watching a good family movie, or a homework project, spending quality time together is important. My goal for the family projects are to encourage conversations on what we are learning and spending time together.

## Weekly Homework pages

The key to become a better reader is to **READ, READ, READ!** I will be sending home a weekly log and the expectation will be to read weekly for at least 100 minutes. For every 100 minutes your child reads they will earn a bead on their reading necklace. The log will go home on Monday and is due the following Monday. The log will be on the Refrigerator Copy each week



## Words to Know

Each week there will be 10 high frequency words, titled **Words to Know**, on the Refrigerator Copy. These words are also known as "sight words". Please use the flashcards provided to help your child memorize these words. It is important for students to know sight words because they account for up to 75% of the words used in beginning children's printed material. Sight words promote **confidence**. A child who has mastered the list of sight words can already recognize at least half of a sentence. If your child begins to read a book and can already recognize the words, chances are they won't feel discouraged and put the book down, rather they'll have more confidence to read it all the way through. And, choose another! I look forward to seeing your child build their reading skills through knowing their sight words.

Each week a fluency page will be attached to the Refrigerator Copy. Please read the **directions attached to the first fluency page**. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.

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Please have your child return this folder daily. I send home many important papers from the front office and the classroom, so it is important to read all paperwork and send the folder back with your child on the following day.

# Homework Information