

Dear First Grade Parents,

We are all ready to kick off the new school year! Last week we focused mainly on getting to know the classroom and some of the materials. By Friday, most of the class had practiced writing in their new Journal and doing some basic math problems with addition.

In addition to these basic skills, we will also gradually introduce the Cultural Subjects: Botany, Zoology and Geography. Our first project is to gather items in the classroom. After this we will physically sort all the items into two groups: Living and Non-Living. This will be followed by a discussion of what Living Things must do to stay alive (Breathe, Move, Eat, Excrete, Reproduce, Grow and Sense).

**\*\* The brief list above forms the basis of our Botany and Zoology studies\*\***

**Each Cultural lesson begins with a "Key Experience" which is designed to stimulate the child's interest through his or her senses.** With this experience as a foundation, the children will transition to more abstract levels of learning about the sciences through reading, researching, and recording what they discover. We also integrate art and literature into our lessons, so the child's knowledge and appreciation of the subject will be enhanced from a variety of perspectives.

I am looking forward to meeting with you to further discuss our 1<sup>st</sup> grade elementary program at **Back to School Night** this Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

With warm regards,  
Toni Tomacci

#### **CALENDAR**

- Thursday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Back to School Night from 6:30pm to 7:30pm
- Monday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – School Picture Day; uniforms, school sweaters; girls must wear uniform jumpers
- Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Sharing Day (theme: "something from a summer trip")
- Thursday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Observing "First Day of Autumn", THEME DRESS DAY  
If they wish, they may wear clothes that are mostly brown, orange, yellow, &/or red; otherwise, wear uniforms
- Monday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – celebration of Johnny Appleseed's birthday