

August 20, 2009



Dear First Grade Parents:

Welcome to first grade. I extend the warmest of welcomes to you and your child. This is the start of my fifteenth year teaching first grade at Good Shepherd Catholic School. I graduated from San Jose State University in 1975 with a teaching credential in elementary and special education. In addition, I have a catechist certificate to teach religion. I have been married for 34 years and have three grown children who attended our school, and one granddaughter. Vicki Egan will be our part-time aide from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. She is also married and has three children and two grandchildren. I taught her youngest daughter when she attended out school. It will be our joy to share your child's growth with you.

First grade is one of the most exciting years of your child's education. It is a year filled with learning the foundational touchstone of education, the subject of reading. Your child will also be introduced to such practical tasks as counting money and telling time. First grade will spiritually challenge your child by emphasizing the love of Jesus: "What would Jesus Do?" We will also learn about the Blessed Trinity.

There will be 26 first graders this year so we will become a close and caring first grade family. Please welcome Mia Cunningham, Octavio Ferrer and Leilani Renda to our first grade family. **Due to a peanut allergy, first grade will be a no peanut zone. No peanut products of any kind or those containing peanuts will be allowed for lunch or snack. I am told Trader Joes has alternative products.** See Shannon McLeod. In order to assist us in identifying the owners of lost items, it is important that you label all of your child's possessions, such as sweatshirts, lunches, backpacks, clothes and homework assignments. Reminder in the primary grades we recommend backpacks without wheels. They are easier to manage and students are less likely to trip when walking to and from class.

One of the keys to your child's academic success is a teamwork approach between the parents and the school staff. I have an open door policy and encourage you to communicate with me after school about anything that may affect your child's education. The best way to communicate with me is to make an after school appointment. Alternatively, you may send a note with your child, in which case I will review it the first thing in the morning and respond to you as soon as possible. You may also call me at 476-4000 *821 or send me an e-mail (paduffy@gsschool.org). (Please do not leave a note on my desk as it may get lost.) In addition, our school counselor, Dr. Monica Esposito, is on campus two mornings each week to assist your child with any special needs.

Another key to your child's academic success is strong parental involvement in the learning process. To this end, I ask that you volunteer your time in the classroom to assist us in making first grade a strong and individualized learning environment. But for those of you who can make the time, I will identify volunteer opportunities on the homework sheet as the opportunities arise. For those that can't volunteer during school hours, there are additional opportunities after school and on weekends. If you do work in the classroom, please remember to silence your cell phone. Also, refer to your Parent Handbook for further safety requirements.

This is going to be a great year! I look forward to this year. It is my privilege to share in your child's growth.

Enthusiastically yours,
Mrs. Patty Duffy



First Grade Homework– Week 1 & 2 – August 20, 2009

Due Friday, August 28, 2009

paduffy@gsschool.org

”Act as God’s children. Live in love, just as Jesus did.” (Based on Ephesians 5:1)

Thursday, 8/20	Reading	Practice reading word lists.
Monday, 8/24 or Tuesday, 8/25	Spelling	Write each word 2 times on paper using a pencil, your best handwriting, and <u>circle each vowel letter</u> in red. Lined paper located on my website. Each week the <u>practice test will be on Thursday</u> and the <u>final test will be on Friday</u> .
Wednesday, 8/26	Phonics	Cut out 2 or 3 pictures of things that start with the first letter of your first name. (e.g. I might cut out a picture of a dog, or a donut. You can find pictures in magazines, newspapers, junk mail, Google, or draw them.)
Thursday, 8/27	Spelling	Study for Practice Test.
Weekly Homework: (Note: Review weekly word list/math flash cards for 3-4 minutes only.)	Read Week 1 – Lists A&B Week 2 - Lists C&D & any words from Lists A & B Math: Pages 1-10 *(Pages are to be taken from the math homework and problem solving book which will come home today and stay home all year.)	Read the lists to a reader four times <u>during the week</u> and have the reader sign the purple folder. (Your child can read the list more times, if desired.) A sticker is given on the cover when each list has been initialed 4 times. <u>Return the folder on Friday</u> (except this week) regardless if the purple folder is signed or not. Reading number words—please find attached numbered words in the homework packet. Please cut these numbered words out and glue them onto 3 X 5 cards. Do this with all flashcards sent home. Then practice reading them regularly. (Do not return flash cards to school.)

NEW TIMES: School is out at 2:30 pm this year. Students can be picked up in front of the school. On a Minimum Day school will be out at 12:00 pm.

This homework will be due on Friday, August 28th due to the short week.

- Thursday, August 27th - Book orders are due. If you want to order from one of the book clubs, please make a separate check for each book club. Scholastic Book orders can be ordered ON LINE anytime before midnight on Thursday the 27th: Go to www.scholastic.com/parentordering --- Class User Name: **paduffy** Password: **school**.
- This weekly homework cover page will be posted on the first grade web page located at: www.gsschool.org. The homework attachment pages will go home on Monday. See me if you have difficulty finding the 1st grade icon or homework on our website.
- Attached are interesting articles on ways to help with reading at home.

Number Words

Cut out, keep at home, and practice reading the number words.

one

two

three

four

five

Six

seven

eight

nine

ten