

# Class News for Mrs. Barnwell's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Class:

**This year has gotten off to a fabulous start! We have been hard at work learning procedures, rules, and how to interact in our new environment. Many friends have been made and relationships continue to blossom. Thank you for sharing your wonderful and unique children with me!**

## Here's what we've been doing:

**ALT:** Academic Language Therapy began this Monday. The schedule is still shifting a little each day as we try to match each student with the best possible situation. Your student's ALT will be sending home information as soon as the schedule is a little more stable.

**Language!:** The first few days of this week were spent assessing each student using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills). We have completed the Benchmark scores, which will give us starting scores for our ongoing documentation. For the rest of the year, we will monitor one area of the Literacy Skills each week. This gives the teachers and parents a great way to closely monitor the progress we are making. On Wednesday we began our *Language!* curriculum. It is great to see most of the students so enthusiastic about reading.

**Math:** Ms. Fulcher's and my students have been flexibly grouped into two Math groups. Both classes began the *Semple* math curriculum this week. My math group will have math homework coming home this week. Please remember that the *Semple* program is very unique in its strategies and that homework may seem a little foreign. The students should be comfortable completing the assignment on their own, but if they are struggling, please just send it back with a quick note and we can review the skill in class. I want homework to be an enjoyable and pleasant experience for all who are involved.

**Language Arts:** We have spent our time in language arts experimenting with some writing activities to help me assess where we should begin in our writing instruction. We have listened to and responded to many wonderful stories. Each student created a drawing and written description of his or her dream house this week. I will be displaying the stories in our class window for a week or two and then sending them home for you to enjoy.

**Social Studies:** We have been discussing rules, citizenship, and families over the past two weeks. Yesterday we showed what great citizens we were by picking up trash around our campus. Students have also been demonstrating great citizenship in the classroom by helping their friends with various problems. We will be starting a time line project next week. I will send home detailed instructions in your child's binder on Monday.

## Reminders:

\*Please make sure and initial your student's agenda each night. Important information will be written here. Thank you to those parents who are already signing every day.

\*Curriculum Night will be September, 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Beverly Hall.

\*Milk will begin being served September 4<sup>th</sup>.

\*Please sign and return the Parent/Student Handbook acknowledgement page by **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**, if you have not already done so.

\*The dress code states that tank tops are not allowed. Student's shoulders must be covered.

*Thank you for all you do for your child. I look forward to getting to know you and your children better. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments. Have a great day!*