

### **Social/Emotional Development:**

**Children will** know when, where, and how to seek help; demonstrate the ability to respect boundaries, rights, and personal safety; recognize the situation whether s/he is in a safe place; recognize a wide variety feelings and needs of self and others; recognize safe ways of expressing emotions; describe and respect individual differences.

**Guidance Counselor Naihsin Kuo supports classroom teachers in implementing the “Second Step” and “Conflict Resolution” programs integrated with “Heart Talk”, our Compassionate Communication**



### **Art**

Students explore a wide range of art techniques and materials. Skills, concepts and vocabulary are introduced sequentially, leading towards creative confidence, visual literacy, multicultural appreciation and a life-long relationship to the world of art.

#### **In first grade we:**

- \* Introduce art media and techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, collage and fiber arts
- \* Begin drawing from observation and imagination
- \* Learn to mix colors
- \* Identify visual elements in works of art
- \* Introduce respect for differences in personal and cultural expression
- \* Connect visual literacy to emerging literacy

**Curriculum Connections:** the self, the family, the body, Japan, Puerto Rico, basic math concepts

### **District Assessments:**

Math: Beginning and end of year assessments  
Writing: Spring Writing Prompts

**Homework:** Homework is not typically part of the First Grade program. Occasionally, students will be asked to discuss a relevant topic or talk about some aspect of classroom learning with someone at home. First Grade students and parents/guardians should spend daily time reading and talking about books together. This includes both reading to your child and listening to your child read to you.

We encourage parents/guardians to strengthen the home-school connection in several ways:

- \*Talk with your child regularly about school.
- \*Play games that strengthen math thinking and strategies, like checkers, cards, puzzles.
- \*Talk about everyday events in your family. These discussions often provide rich material for writing in school.

Research is clear that everyday conversation between parents and children benefits reading comprehension.

### **LIBRARY**

A variety of literature to help students in their selection process.

#### **Literature**

- \* Trickster Tales from around the world (Anansi, Coyote, Jabuti)
- \* Traditional authors (McCloskey, Burnett, Seuss)
- \* Mythology
- \* Seasonal literature
- \* Reading around the library

#### **Library Skills**

- \* Identifying parts of the book
- \* How to find your favorite books



**Field Trips:** Classes attend performances at The Fine Arts Center at UMass and events sponsored by the UMASS Asian Studies program.

We enjoy an end of the year grade level trip the Mill River.



# **First Grade at Wildwood**

**2009-2010**

Teacher and Room Information

*Stephanie Joyce* D-2

*Susie Secco* D-4

*Gina Simm* D-1

This brochure will provide you with information about the key curriculum areas your child will study this year. We hope that you will use this as a guide in supporting your child's success at school.

如需要翻译这件文件，请联络心理辅导老师郭乃馨

电话362-1417

この文書を翻訳するか、または内容を論議するために、362-1400 を呼び、日本の訳者に話すことを頼みなさい。

Para traducir este documento o para discutir su contenido, llame por favor 362-1400 y pida hablar al traductor español.

### **Wildwood Elementary School**

Matthew Behnke, Principal  
Lisa Bailly, Assistant Principal  
71 Strong Street  
Amherst, MA 01002  
362-1400  
[www.arps.org/ww](http://www.arps.org/ww)



## Language arts:

In First Grade, literacy holds a uniquely prominent and overarching place. During the Language Arts section of the day, first graders engage in reading, writing, word study, handwriting, and active listening and speaking skills. In Reading Workshop, students participate in guided reading and strategy lessons where they learn decoding and comprehension skills. They read books across the genres, and develop effective, independent strategies for monitoring their reading. Teachers guide students in learning basic sight words, phonetic skills, and language structure while supporting them in reading increasingly challenging levels of text. When not in direct instruction, students engage in independent reading and partner reading. Teachers read aloud daily encouraging the enjoyment of a wide variety of literature which often serves as an important bridge to the rest of the curriculum. During writing workshop children verbally rehearse, sketch and write small moment stories, all about and how-to books, and poems. Students study how authors use pictures, words and mechanics to craft their writing and experiment with these in their own writing. Over the course of the year first graders take joy in reading, writing, publishing, and sharing many styles of books.

## Science and Health:

### INQUIRY & ENGINEERING SKILLS:

- \*Sort and classify objects
- \*Make careful observations
- \*Record observations using words and pictures
- \*Make predictions based on observed patterns
- \*Organize data on graphs and charts

### UNITS:

WEATHER  
MAGNETS  
HUMAN BODY  
EMBRYOLOGY

## Math:

The first grade is fully implementing the 2nd edition of the math program *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space*. This curriculum enables students to spend time exploring problems in-depth; find more than one solution to a problem; invent strategies and approaches; choose from a variety of concrete materials and technology for math work; express mathematics thinking through drawing, writing, and talking; and work in a variety of groupings.

Curriculum Units and Goals:

### How Many of Each?

- counting, comparing, and ordering quantities

### Making Shapes and Designing Quilts

- describing, comparing, and naming 2D shapes

### Solving Story Problems

- representing number combinations using different strategies

### What Would You Rather Be?

- sorting and classifying objects
- representing, describing, and understanding data investigations

### Fish Lengths and Animal Jumps

- understanding length using linear units

### Number Games and Crayon Puzzles

- adding and subtracting with 2 or more single digit numbers

### Color, Shape, and Number Patterns

- constructing, describing, and extending repeating patterns and number sequences

### Two, Fives, and Tens

- counting strategies for numbers to 100 and beyond

### Blocks and Boxes

- describing, comparing, and naming 3D shapes and structures

Resources from Scott Foresman/Addison Wesley *Mathematics* are used to supplement *Investigations*.

**Social Studies:** The study of families is at the foundation of our social studies learning in first grade. We begin by learning about families of students in our classes and continue that focus as we study Puerto Rico and Japan. We compare similarities and differences in how families live, work, and play in these nations as compared to our families. We also compare traditions between our families and those of people in these two island countries and others around the world. Literature, folktales, art and music enrich our learning about the people and culture of Puerto Rico and Japan.



**Music** Students experience a diversity of musical styles, genres, cultures, and traditions to promote good vocal technique and develop music skills.

- \* Interpret rhythm patterns; match pitches; recognize high, low, same and different pitches; follow contour of melodic line; beginning notation; reading left to right.
- \* Respond to beat; begin dancing; musical games.
- \* Instrument exploration and recognition

**Curriculum connections:** Family, Puerto Rico, Japan, Weather, Seasons.

## Physical Education is PE:

### wear sneakers please.

In games/sports, gymnastics, & dance, students:

- \* meet physical, social, and intellectual, national Standards, e.g., frequent activity, competition & cooperation, beginner skill and concept words
- \* use movement concepts, e.g., strong/light, sudden/sustained & partners
- \*do basic skills, e.g., over arm throw, forward roll, & skip and leap

**Curriculum Connections:** : body, family, Japan and Puerto Rico

## Computers

Formal Instruction in computers begins in second grade. Classroom teachers will visit the computer lab as schedules permit throughout the year.