

Team 6-1 ELA News

A message from Mrs. Koepke and Mrs. Gagliardi

Dear 6-1 Readers and Writers,

We hope that you have enjoyed your first few week of school! It has been so much fun getting to know you as readers and writers. While we teach in separate classrooms, we do most of our planning together. When you return next week we will continue workshop in both reading and writing. Here's a bit more about what to expect.

A typical workshop follows the following format: 8-10 minute mini-lesson, 20-30 minutes of reading or writing work and 5-10 minute share or read aloud. During the mini-lesson we introduce and practice a strategy which we encourage you to use during the work time. When you are working we are lifting the level of your reading with individual conferences, partner and small group work. Finally, during the share, you share learning or listen to a read aloud that will be used in future lessons.

Our time together is very short so it is important that you come to class prepared and ready to learn. Please bring your Reader's/ Writer's Notebook to school each day. You will also need a Language Arts folder that will be used to shuttle important papers, current independent book, sticky notes, and other work-in-progress, back and forth from home to school every day. We can also provide this if you have not already purchased one.

Our first unit of study in reading is about, "Turn Every Kid into a Reader-and a Character Analyst" In this unit we will ask each of you to embrace reading and take responsibility for your reading lives. This will mean increased independence in the selection of books, greater stamina and volume, goal setting and monitoring of your reading. You will also learn more about the complexity of characters and the lessons that they learn in their experience.

In writing you will write Personal Narratives, which are powerful life stories about you. In this unit you will also work on independence, volume, and stamina in your writing AND improve the quality of your work.

Each night you have required reading homework. In the next week we will discuss the importance of reading logs to chart your daily practice. For now, we ask that you read APPROXIMATELY 40-60 pages each day-between school and home. Be sure to read to the same book (at home and school) and read to the end of the chapter. When we do begin to send home writing homework it will be an extension of the work that you are doing in the classroom.

We look forward to a great year! Please share this letter with the important adults in your life and we look forward to meeting them at open house.

~Mrs. Koepke and Mrs. Gagliardi