

**Mrs.  
Fenn's  
Class**

# The First Grade Frontier



**TRICK WORDS FOR NEXT WEEK  
THESE WORDS SHOULD BE  
MEMORIZED AND SPELLED CORRECTLY**

**the  
of  
and  
his  
is**

**PHONICS RULE FOR THIS  
WEEK AND NEXT WEEK**

**Words with  
with  
cvc**

**Consonant/ vowel/  
Consonant words**

**Special points of interest:**

- I'm so pleased to Welcome our Room Parent! Celeste Zizzamia... YEA!
- Please remember to sign up for Konstella and Remind. Konstella is where you will find all party info. You will also find school wide events. Remind is a text message service where I can send quick reminders.
- I'll be sending home some opportunities to volunteer for centers through Sign Up Genius soon!

## Reading Round-up

With the coming of Fall, we will begin to discuss apples and learn about Johnny Appleseed. Our centers (in a week) will include making our own Johnny Appleseed and will also write about how Johnny was a positive citizen. In the reading center, we will work on the concept that all fiction stories have a Beginning, Middle and End. Along with Apples, we will be studying the five senses. So, the students will combine these two items in the computer center and type how apples look, feel, sound, smell and taste. They will also complete a senses flip book in the writing center. Soon, I will be having reading groups on the student's reading levels and sending

home books to read. Therefore, the students will work together at their centers to complete the papers. ( they have been doing such a nice job, so far). So, these papers will not be graded.

I am attaching some of Becky Bailey's Discipline Tips and Tidbits (sorry it's so small) .

I was very impressed with the students results from the handwriting and sounds unit. We will begin reviewing all the vowel sounds next week. We will start tapping out those CVC words next week, too. They will even be writing dictated sentences! Keep doing that homework!

The  
sky's  
the  
limit



\*\*\*\*\*  
"Autumn is the perfect time to take account of what we've done, what we didn't do, and what we'd like to do next year."  
-- Author Unknown  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Math Matters

I sent home the first unit assessment this week. Everyone did a very nice job! Thank you for signing and returning it! I also started sending home homework. I have included an optional challenge page for those who are interested. It may not be technically difficult, but because it comes from a different program, it includes number bonds and topics/

approaches that we don't necessarily cover in class. So, to get the answers, your child will have to think a little differently than the standard math addition problem. If they really want a challenge, let them try it without giving the directions. :) Then look over the work.

### A Snippet of Science

To continue the fall theme, we will be studying two important topics. We will learn about the life of the apple tree. We will also learn the changes the apple tree goes through in each season. We'll study the reasons behind the changes in the leaves and why they are such beautiful colors in the fall.

Lifecycle of an Apple Tree  
<http://viewpure.com/0DDDBwk-bM>

Johnny Appleseed  
<http://viewpure.com/ev4-8oPEnZY>

## Ten "To Do's" for Discipline by Becky Bailey

**Tell children what to do** Principle: What you focus on, you get more of. Application: Instead of saying, "No pushing, you know better than to push your brother, pushing is not nice," say, "When you want your brother to move say, 'Move please.' Tell him now." Focus on what you want your children to do!

**Give children useable information, especially when you are upset.** Principle: When you are upset you are always focused on what you don't want. Application: Instead of saying, "Why isn't this homework done? Do you want to fail? How many times do we have to go over this?" you could say, "You can start with your math homework or reading. Which is best for you?"

**Help children to be successful instead of attempting to make or get them to behave.** Principle: The only person you can make change is yourself. Application: How often have we attempted to make a smoker quit smoking or growing child eat her peas? There is a better way. Instead of asking yourself, "How am I going to get my child to stay in bed," ask yourself, "How am I going to help my child be more likely to choose to stay in her bed?" The first question will give you manipulative, coercive answers. The second question will give you creative, cooperative solutions.

**Use your children as resources to solve their own problems.** Principle: Two heads are better than one. Application: Instead of you trying to figure out what needs to be done, ask your children for input. You could say, "What would help you finish your homework by 8:00 p.m.?" Help children solve their problems themselves.

**Put your children on your "to do list" and spend time enjoying them.** Principle: The motivation to behave comes from being in relationship with one another. Application: When a child says, "I don't care," she is really saying, "I don't feel cared for." Cooperation comes from connection. If your child chronically refuses to listen or tells you they don't care, then you must start by rebuilding your relationship and rekindling family rituals.

**Encourage your children during wonderful times and tough times. Do not attempt to get children to feel bad in order to behave better.** Principle: Encouragement empowers. Application: Be your children's cheerleader. Constantly tell them, "You did it," "Way to go," "Look at you," or "Good for you." When your children are struggling you might say, "I believe in you, you can do this."

**Take back your power. You are in charge.** Principle: Whoever you believe to be in charge of your feelings, you have placed in charge of you. Application: Instead of saying, "Don't make me have to pull this car over," say, "I'm going to pull this car over until the seatbelts are fastened and everyone is safe." Instead of saying, "You drive me nuts," say, "I'm going to take a few deep breaths and calm myself down. Then I will talk to you." When children refuse to do what you ask state, "I'm going to show you what I want you to do." Then help them be successful.

**Become the person you want your children to be.** Principle: We must discipline ourselves first and our children second. Application: Instead of screaming, "You better get control of yourself right now," take a deep breath and calm yourself down. Be a S.T.A.R. (Smile, Take a deep breath, And Relax). Become what you want your child to be. If you want calmness, demonstrate how to be calm.

**Do not save your children from the consequences of their actions.** Principle: Psychological pain is a signal to make changes in your life. Application: Help your child handle disappointing choices. Offer empathy instead of lectures after poor choices. Instead of saying, "I told you not to take that picture to school. It's your own fault it got torn in half. That is what you get for not listening to me," say, "How disappointing for you. I know how important that picture was to you." Empathy allows children to take responsibility for their actions, while lecturing allows them to blame you for their distress.

**Teach children how to handle their conflicts instead of punishing them for not knowing how.** Principle: Conflict is an opportunity to teach. Application: When one child comes to you tattling on the other, use these moments to teach life skills. When one sibling says, "He pushed me," you say, "Did you like it?" The child will likely say, "No!" At this point you can say, "Go tell your brother, 'I don't like it when you push me.'" Use these intrusive episodes as a way to teach assertiveness skills to your children.

Become conscious of the intent behind each of your interactions. Your intent is more powerful than any words. Most importantly, have fun! There is no right or wrong way - it is a journey. -Becky Bailey