

# Class Parent Newsletter

Mr. Berman's First Grade, Room 225  
Fall 2009



VOICE Charter School

## Class Curriculum

The **writing workshop** unit is entitled "Authors as Mentors." During this unit, students will study many books by the author **Ezra Jack Keats**. Students will notice how Ezra Jack Keats writes in his books and will try to incorporate his craft moves into their own writing. These craft moves include bold print, all caps, ellipses, and exclamation points.

**Reading workshop** during November focuses on characters. Students will get to know the main characters in their books and will notice what the characters do, say, and think. Students will also think about when and why the characters change in their books.

In **math** students will finish working on subtraction and will begin working on graphs. Students will work on picture graphs, tally charts, and bar graphs.

In **social studies** students will finish studying geography. They will learn about the seven continents and ordinal directions. At the end of November, they will begin studying world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will learn that people belong to different religions around the world and that they have their own beliefs and traditions. In addition, students will discuss how people need to be respectful and tolerant of all religions.

In **science**, we will finish our unit on solids and liquids. Students will observe what happens when solids and liquids are mixed. Students will also conduct an investigation to determine if toothpaste is a solid or a liquid. In November, we will also begin a new unit on air and weather.

LEAP will begin November 16<sup>th</sup> with Miss Kayla McCann. They will study dinosaurs.

## Classroom Schedule

Mr. Berman's class has **reading workshop, writing workshop, foundations, & math** everyday. LEAP is on Tuesdays & Thursdays. They have **science** twice a week and **social studies** once a week. They go to **gym** every Wednesday (& some Fridays). They visit the school **library** every other Friday. Of course, they see Mr. Arcelay everyday for **music**. *All units are 45 minutes long, except for LEAP, which is one hour.*

## Welcome to our Classroom Assistants!

Mr. Dozier and Mr. Paul join VOICE this year as assistants primarily in the first grade classrooms. They are serving through a year-long Americorps program called Public Allies, which matches young people with non-profit organizations in New York City. They both have strong backgrounds in education and the performing arts. Mr. Dozier and Mr. Paul look forward to a productive and fun year working in the classrooms and facilitating parent involvement at VOICE.

A "Character Festival" was hosted by the class parents on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. The students made masks of their favorite literary characters. On Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, for Thanksgiving, we will be celebrating the many cultures that make America special.

October 29<sup>th</sup> was picture day! VOICE had 100% attendance. Proofs, which are yours to keep, will be going home soon.

Nov 16	Author Elizabeth Uhlig visits VOICE
Nov 16	Student Achievement Awards & PA Meeting, 6pm
Nov 18	VOICE Board Meeting
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Celebration (in classroom)
Nov 26-27	<b>School Closed:</b> Happy Thanksgiving!
Nov 30	Reading & Writing Celebrations (in classroom)
Dec 10	<b>Winter Concert</b> , 6pm (auditorium)
Dec 24	<b>School Closed:</b> Winter Holidays Break
Jan 4	<b>Happy New Year!</b>

## Reading tips for you & your child

**Before Reading:** Read the title, look at the cover and pictures. Do you know anything about the character/s in the book?  
**During Reading:** Stop and think about what's going on in the story. Read in a smooth, clear voice. Figure out tricky words by looking at pictures, making the beginning and ending sound, and asking what makes sense.  
**After Reading:** What is their favorite part and why? Retell the story, in order, across their fingers (using "first, next, then, and last"). Did the character change and how?

## Mr. Berman's Wish List

Any healthy snacks and juices are greatly appreciated (juice boxes, applesauce, crackers, pretzels, & goldfish). Please avoid snacks with peanuts due to allergies in our classroom.

## REMINDERS

\*The best way to communicate with Mr. Berman is a note in your child's folder. \*Please label all student clothing. \*Please make sure snacks are easy to open. \*Please do not send any toys to school. \*Please do not send any birthday invitations to school unless the whole class is invited. THANK YOU!

## Class Parents:

Erin Acosta  
Cristina Boylan