

# ☆☆Schnarr's Stars☆☆

September 24, 2018

Westbrook School

Mrs. Schnarr

[gschnarr@glenview34.org](mailto:gschnarr@glenview34.org)

847-657-2415

*Our first few weeks of school have passed by so fast! Students are becoming more comfortable each day with the new routines in first grade.*

<b>Reminders:</b>	<b>Conferences</b>	<b>iPads</b>
<p><i>* Tuesday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Book Fair Begins: Please see more information about the Book Fair at the end of this newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>* Thursday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social: 6-8p.m.</i></p> <p><i>* Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> Conference Day: No School</i></p>	<p>The district has set aside Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, for Parent-Teacher conferences. <b>Room 15 will also have times available before and after school during the week of October 15<sup>th</sup> and the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.</b> <i>*Please send the attached schedule back with your choices.</i></p>	<p>Thank you for sending back your child's plan for using iPads at home! Students have their iPads and chargers in their backpacks today, along with instructions and passwords for apps. <b>*Students are expected to bring iPads to school each day, ready to use!</b></p>

☆☆We have been focused during these early weeks on "Getting to Know You" activities and developing school and classroom routines. Students have enjoyed learning to participate in "Morning Meeting," do student jobs, and engage in some of our regular language arts activities. We have started learning about selecting books to read from our classroom library and building stamina to read independently. We have been reviewing number skills and concepts through a variety of math activities, including using graphing activities to record data about our class.

☆☆ We spend time these first weeks and throughout the year determining best instructional levels for each child through both formal and informal assessments. All of our activities give me an opportunity to observe your child's strengths and challenges. We use a number of classroom, grade-level, and district-wide assessments to help us plan the best instructional program for your child, including one-on-one reading and math assessments. All of these are valuable tools to help ensure that your child makes the best progress possible in first grade.

**Don't miss more information and news! →→→→→→**

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☆☆ We continue to learn about being a good Westbrook citizen. The first lessons in our **Second Step** social-emotional program help us learn and practice listening skills. Our **Social Studies** unit of study has helped us develop the understanding that rules are important for our classroom and school community, just as they are in the larger community. We will continue our social studies unit with map study. Students will develop basic concepts about maps and use a map of the school to find a specific location.

☆☆ We are concluding our first **Math** unit and moving on to the second unit, which focuses on concepts of addition and solving number story (word) problems. Students are learning about specific addition strategies, including using combinations of numbers to make 10. We will be practicing a variety of strategies to solve word problems, including drawing a picture, using objects, using a number line or number grid, and mental math.

☆☆ **Important Book Fair information:** Our gym will be filled with books this week! The students brought a catalog/order form home last week showing some of the books that will be for sale at the **Scholastic Book Fair**. There are many ways for you to take advantage of this opportunity to get books for your child if you would like:

\*You may use the order form and send money with your child to buy the books you choose from the catalog.

\*You may choose to just send money with your child that you have decided he/she may use to choose books to buy.

\*You may meet our class at the Book Fair on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:05 and help your child "shop" for books.

\*The Book Fair will also be open for business during the Ice Cream Social Thursday evening, allowing your family to browse and buy if you choose!

Please know that many of these books will be purchased by the PTA for our classroom and Westbrook library, should you decide not to buy books personally at this time.

☆☆ I look forward to getting to know all the families of Room 15. It is a pleasure to get to know these students as people and learners. My goal is to ensure that each child in our classroom thrives and learns each day. *Please contact me anytime by email, phone, or by sending a note with your child!*

*Gretchen Schnarr*