**Our 1st Grade Classroom News**

**The Week of September 19th – 23rd**

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**Website:** [**www.bluevalleyk12.org/hes/lweeks**](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/hes/lweeks)

-Please help your child to remember to bring their library books on Tuesdays and their reading logs every day to school. I am trying to have the kids take more responsibility for these things to help you out a bit! When they tell me, “My mom/dad forgot to put it in my backpack!” I always make them correct it and say, “I forgot to put it in my backpack.” This will take time for them to master but this is a great grade level to practice!

-We will be practicing all short vowels this week!

-Your child needs to wear tennis shoes for the zoo field trip. They also need to bring ALL disposable things for lunch if they are not getting school sack lunch.

**Important Info**

Sept. 22nd Zoo Field Trip

Sept. 23rd 1/2 Day of School

Oct. 3rd Reading logs are due

Oct. 2nd Walk-a-thon 9:00-9:45am

**Upcoming Events**

**Math Challenge of the Week:**We have been working on finding the missing part of a subtraction number sentence. Write down 5 to 10 problems that look similar to this: 9 - \_\_\_ = 5 and have your child solve them. How we tried solving these in class is we drew the whole number of circles (9 in the example problem) and crossed off the part we knew (5 in the example problem). The circles that are not crossed off is the missing part. See below for example. *Use higher numbers for more of a challenge.***O O O O O O O O O 9 – \_4\_ = 5**

**Reading Challenge of the Week:** Have your child make predictions before and during their book. What do they think is coming next? What will be the main problem in the book? An example would be during a reading group last week, we read a book about a cat having kittens. We made the prediction that the little girl in the story was going to get one of the kittens. We were able to confirm our prediction at the end of the story when she got to pick one out! This strategy is great to help comprehension and set a purpose for reading. Have your child write down what they predicted and then explain if their prediction was correct or not.   
  
**Writing Challenge of the Week:** The students are working on their writing stamina. Many students spend a minute writing and yell ‘IM DONE’ without even going back to check what they wrote. Give your child a timer and set it for 5 minutes. Tell them they are not allowed to stop writing until the timer goes off. Have them come up with a topic before starting the timer. When they are done, go back and reread their writing with them. What words could they go back and stretch out a bit more? Have them write their story in their homework notebook!

**Challenges of the Week**

**Website of the Week:** [Life Cycle of a Frog](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/science_up_close/212/deploy/interface.html)is a great website to show students how a frog changes. Our new theme for reading is changes in our world. We have been talking about how animals and plants change quite a bit. On this website students can click on each stage of a frog’s life cycle to learn more! <http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/science_up_close/212/deploy/interface.html>

**App of the Week:** [Talking Tom](http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talking-tom-cat-2/id421997825?mt=8)is always a fun one for all :-). Talking Tom is a cat that will repeat anything that you say to it. He has a squeaky voice so it makes a bit more fun for the kids. There is a way to have everything you say to him recorded so he says it all at once when you play it back. In the past, I have had students read to Talking Tom (while having it record) and then have Talking Tom read it back to them as they follow along in the book. Great way to add excitement to their daily reading time!

**Tech of the Week**