
September 2023

First Grade Paw Prints

Dominion Trail Elementary School
<https://www.lcps.org/dominiontrail>

Welcome to First Grade!

First Grade Paw Prints is a monthly newsletter written by our First Grade Teaching Team. You can find it on our website. We would like to thank you for your support these past few days as we have worked to create an engaging and happy learning environment for the first graders! We are working hard to ensure that your children feel *supported, known, and loved*. As we work together to create our classroom family, we ask that you help us keep the lines of communication open. Our partnership is necessary for the children to have the magical first-grade year they deserve. The First Grade Team is looking forward to learning and growing with your child. Go Huskies!

Language Arts

During September we are setting up routines for our reader's workshop and writer's workshop. We have begun working with our UFLI phonics program as well. We are learning how to build our reading stamina and learning strategies we can use to become stronger readers. As we set up our writing community, students will begin writing pattern books. In Handwriting, we are working to perfect our pencil grip while practicing horizontal, vertical and slanted lines as well as curves.

Math

Students are learning the structures for math workshops and how to think like a mathematician. We will be working on number sense, grouping tens and ones, comparing numbers, and counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's.

Social Studies/Science

We are beginning our year with citizenship. Please talk with your child about how they can help at home, at school, and in our community! At school, we follow our Husky Code! We will also begin our study of maps with our "Where am I?" unit. In Science we are learning about the sun and our changing seasons, especially the season of summer.

Specials

Art, Music, Library, P.E., Guidance, and Search are all off to a good start. Please remember to check the schedule we shared so that your child is wearing sneakers on P.E. day.



Upcoming Events

September 1	No school
September 4	Labor Day No school
September 6	MAP testing
September 14	Fall picture day
September 25	Student holiday

Helpful Hints/reminders:

MAP testing On Wednesday morning, September 6, all first graders will be taking the math portion of the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) test. It is administered on the computer. We will practice a few questions ahead of times so the students are comfortable with the format. Every student will need their Chromebook fully charged. In addition, they will need their headphones.

Did you know? You can change the order of your icons on your child's LCPS GO page. Simply click on the edit button and bring the most used icons to the top!

Reading Assessments: During the month of September, we will be completing the VALLS assessment. This gives us important information so that we can best meet the needs of the students. Results will be discussed at our conference time in October/November.

Helpful Links:

[PTA website](#)

[DTES Meal menu](#)

Does your child have a public library card? Use the link below to check it out! <https://library.loudoun.gov>

First Grade is Magic!
