

Needle News

Mr. Needleman's Class Newsletter
Issue #1 - September 2004

Welcome to First Grade!

I want to welcome you and your child to my classroom. Your child should be congratulated on entering first grade because this will be one of the most important years of their education. **This is the year that your child will learn to read and read well.**

Students who learn to read well in first grade will have success throughout their years in school. **Together, you and I will ensure that each child in this classroom learns to read.** This cannot happen without your help.

In this newsletter, I tell you some of the most important things you can do at home with your child to help them learn to read. Please continue to come talk to me before and after school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mathew Needleman



How to Help At Home

1. Help your child read his/her decodable books.
2. Insist that your child uses their finger to follow along as they read.
3. Read to your child in English or in Spanish.
4. Take your child to the library to check out books.
5. Talk to your child and ask him/her questions about what they are learning.

About Mr. Needleman

Mr. Needleman has been teaching at Saturn Street School for four years and has taught both kindergarten and first grade. He is a graduate of UCLA where he studied American Literature and Culture and developed a love of reading. He also enjoys playing the guitar and making movies. He has won several awards for using video in the classroom and is the creator of the web site www.opencourtresources.com which provides resources for teachers and parents of students learning to read.



HOMEWORK

How much homework will my child receive?

20 minutes of homework Monday through Thursday.

What kinds of homework will my child receive?

- **Decodable books.** Little white books. They should be read at home 3-5 times the night they go home and then reread again later. If your child is unable to read them independently, then someone at home may need to read the book to them until they can read them. **These are the most important homework your child will receive.**

- **Turtle Words.** Each week your child will receive 5 new sight words to learn which come right from the decodable books. These go home on Monday when your child needs to write sentences using the words. They will be tested on the words on Friday.

- **Math.** Students will receive regular math homework which coincides with what we are working on in class.

Sometimes students will also be asked to write stories for homework, will receive handwriting practice, and other miscellaneous assignments.

