



## S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I S C H O O L

850 Washington Street • Braintree, MA 02184  
Phone: (781) 848-0842 • Fax: (781) 356-5309 • www.sfab.org

***Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement:** We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.*

*From the desk of Mrs. Horsman*

*September 2009*

## *Welcome to First Grade*



I would like to welcome everyone back to school after what has hopefully been a relaxing and enjoyable summer. This is the beginning of a very important year in the educational and social development of your child. Over the next few months first graders will begin to read new words, sentences, and stories. The children will learn to write words, sentences, and to create stories of their own. The students will learn to add, subtract, and solve word problems. They will learn to work independently as well as cooperatively. My goal is to create a safe and healthy environment that will enable every child to develop their skills to their best potential. I hope to instill in each child a love of reading and learning that will carry forth through their school years.



### *Important Information*

#### **Arrival at School:**

School begins at 8:00AM. It is very important that each child come to school on time.



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### Homework:

The children will be given homework from Monday to Thursday. The homework will be a reinforcement of a skill worked on in class. The homework will be posted on the St. Francis of Assisi School website. At the beginning of the year, the homework will most likely be a math or phonics worksheet reviewing a skill that we have learned in class. Once spelling begins in December, the homework will revolve around spelling practice. Once a month, a class newsletter will be posted on the website as well. This will update any news that is taking place in the classroom. Please check the website regularly to keep up with our classroom news.

### Library:

We will be visiting the Thayer Public Library once a week. The children will be allowed to take out 2 books a week as long as their books have been returned. Each child should have a library card. I will let you know what day we will be going when the schedule has been set.

### Class Rules:

Over the first few weeks of school, we will formulate a list of rules for our classroom. Our classroom environment focuses on Loving God and Loving One Another. Our other rules are extensions of this important rule. They will include treating our classmates with kindness and respect, doing our best work at all times, listening to others, and raising our hand before speaking. We will also be forming our hopes and dreams for the coming year. I invite you to also share your hopes and dreams for your child in first grade. We will talk more about this at our open house.

**Morning Meeting:** We will begin each day with Morning Meeting. Each morning the children will greet each other, complete the calendar for the day, read the morning message, and listen while a classmate shares something of importance.

### Sharing:

Every day one child will be given the opportunity to share with the class during the morning meeting. The child will know one day in advance, when his/her turn will be.

### Birthdays:

A small snack may be sent into the class to celebrate a birthday. These snacks must be peanut and dairy product free.

### F.R.O.G. binders

This year your child will be using a F.R.O.G. binder to help him/her develop organizational skills. This binder will be brought to school each day. There are labeled folders for special papers such as homework and office notices. More information on these binders will be available at Open House.



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### Hints for Parents:

Please check your child's F.R.O.G. binder each day for notices and work papers. We have a snack time each morning. This morning snack must be peanut and milk product free. Children are permitted to have a water bottle at their desk at school. For safety reasons we do not allow bottles with screw on tops. Please read to your child each day. This develops an interest in reading and provides the motivation to become independent readers.

### Communication:

Every Thursday, your child will receive important notices from the school office. Please review these notices and return those that are applicable.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. I can be reached by phone or by email at [phorsman@sfab.org](mailto:phorsman@sfab.org).

I am very excited to begin the school year. I look forward to working with your child this year.

