

September XX, 200X

Dear Families,

This is your child's Family Message Journal. Your child will be bringing it home for homework everyday. Please read the day's message and ask your child to tell you about the message and drawing. Do not worry if the message is difficult for you to read—it is written in first-grade spelling. Your child's messages become easier to read over the course of the year.

Print a message back to your child just below his or her message. Write about the same topic. Write your message in letter format, like this letter (date at the top right, a greeting on the left and the message below that, and a closing). Have your child read your message over with you. This entire process should take no more than 10-15 minutes each day but it is very important to your child's learning that you do it daily. Anyone at home may write back to your child—a parent, another relative or sibling, or a family friend. The important thing is that your child receive a reply. The Family Message Journal must come back to school each day. Your child will be sharing your reply with me and with the class at times. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for working with your child on this important homework!

Sincerely,