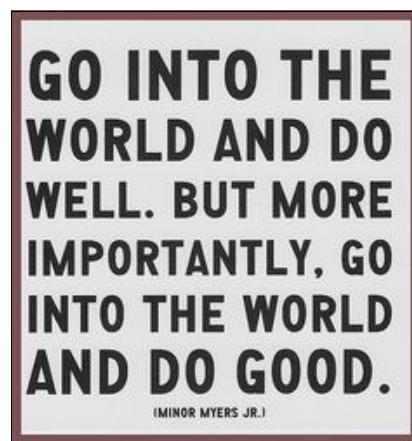


Please feel free to contact me at any time. Obviously, during much of the school day I will not be able to talk on the phone but you can leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email me any time if you have questions or concerns about your child.

Heather Sanders

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## Open House

Thanks for coming! It was an incredible turnout and I am grateful to have been able to meet new families and have a moment to talk to each of you. I hope you enjoyed our classroom, Veda's spaghetti dinner and the entertainment!



# Mrs. Sanders' 1st and 2nd Grade

## Classroom

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 1, 2014

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Oct. 1, 8, 15, 29—Early Release 1:50 Teacher In-service
- Oct. 21-23 Student Led Parent-Teacher Conferences—Early Release 11:50

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## Welcome to our classroom!

Unbelievably a month of school has already passed us by...this must mean we are having fun! This also means that we are getting into the rhythms and routines of our classroom.

We start every morning with 75 minutes of math. In order to meet each student at his or her level we are doing rotations. This means I have three groups (6-8 students in each) and while one group is receiving direct instruction from me for 25 minutes, another group is doing independent practice (math journals or worksheets) and the third is playing standards-related math games. Then groups rotate every 25 minutes so that everyone has 25 minutes of instruction with the teacher, 25 minutes of independent practice, and 25 minutes of math games with a partner. A few students walk to math in Ms. Proffitt's class to receive instruction at the first grade level as all of my groups are working on the second grade common core standards.

I would love to have some more parent volunteers to work with students in the math games center. I am looking for folks who could volunteer one day a week (consistently) from 8:45-10:00. If you have this kind of time available and would like to work with kids playing fun math games, please let me know as soon as possible so I can set up a schedule. This would allow my class-

room aide to work more closely with students needing assistance with independent practice tasks.



Writer's Workshop is well underway. We have been working on personal narratives, or "Small Moment" stories. Our main focus so far has been on writing "grabber" beginnings, interesting endings (avoiding the all too familiar "The End") and using proper punctuation. Students have written some really wonderful stories and I am trying to figure out how to include some of them in our newsletters.

We have built our stamina for Read to Self up to 15 minutes so far. We cruised quickly to this point but have been trying for over a week to move on to 16 minutes and can't quite seem to make it. Many students could read independently well past this point but we realize that we ALL must be able to get there together in order for it to be successful, so we are continuing to practice.

We are using a CAFÉ menu to

learn strategies to help us become better readers. (C-comprehension, A-accuracy, F-fluency, E-expand vocabulary). So far we have discussed and practiced the strategies of checking for understanding, making connections, rereading, predicting, cross-checking, choosing just right books, using picture clues, and tuning into interesting words.

Literacy education also occurs through the many strategies I learned during my two weeks of literacy training this summer. Most of the strategies come from the GLAD (guided language acquisition by design) model. It teaches literacy through social studies and science content. Our first 6-8 week unit is on communities. When you come for conferences you will likely see the walls still dripping with language about communities. We have been having fun learning about communities through stories, songs, poems, chants, charts, maps, pictures, videos, vocabulary and class/team discussions/explorations. We will revisit this unit in the spring with a focus on community needs and community helpers and bring community members into the classroom to share how they serve the community as well as schedule a "Walk Through Our Community" field trip. Our next unit will be science related—liquids and solids.



# Featured Student: Shai



Yeshiah James Olson  
-Wailand

Shai was born October 14, 2006. He lives with his mom and dad, his older brother and older sister, two dogs and one cat.

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite ice cream flavor: Root beer

Favorite color: Yellow

Favorite school subject: Music

Favorite song: Every one

Favorite recess activity: Hopscotch

Name one thing you did this summer: Played the Wii

What do you like to do for fun? Play soccer

What is something that you do well? Math

What is one skill you want to improve this year? Being respectful

What would you like to learn about this year? Math

What do you want to do when you grow up? Be a police officer

What is something that you are afraid of? Bears

If you could play any instrument, which would you pick? Drums

Are you excited for school this year? Yes

*The soul is healed by being with children.*  
~Foyodor Dostoyevski

# Featured Student: Nola



Nola Gazeina Bertucci

Nola was born on October 6, 2008. She lives with her mom and dad, older sister and younger brother, her dog, Florabelle, and her horses, Penny, Comet, Dixie, and Robin Hood.

Favorite food: Pancakes

Favorite ice cream flavor: Bubblegum

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite school subject:

Read to Self

Favorite song: I don't have one

Favorite recess activity: Swings

Name one thing you did this summer: Went on a hike with my cousin

What do you like to do for fun? Go skiing

What is something that you do well? Ride (horses)

What is one skill you want to improve this year?

Reading

What would you like to learn about this year? Time

What do you want to do when you grow up? Be a horse rider

What is something that you are afraid of? Thunder

If you could play any instrument, which would you pick? Piano

Are you excited for school this year? Yes

# Our First All School Assembly



On the first Friday of the school year we had an all school assembly. The principal gathered the elementary, middle school and high school students together to kick off the new year and acknowledge each other as a Ranger family.

Erin Jones came to expand on conversations started last year about respect, integrity, goal setting and perseverance.

Each middle school and high school student had a medal and was told to find an elementary student to give it to. They wanted the elementary students to know that for every one of them there is an "older brother" or "older sister" watching out for them...that they are there to be a role model, a leader, a protector.

At the end of the assembly, Erin

asked who was willing to sign their name on a poster saying that they were a committed member of the Quilcene Ranger family and all hands went up.

We are looking forward to the next opportunity to check in with those "older brothers and sisters."



Breanna 10/2



Nola 10/6



Shai 10/14



Andrew 10/18



Logan 10/27



Leah 10/30

# October Birthdays

# Student Led Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are just around the corner. As in past years these will be student led, so students must be present.

Carrie is in the process of scheduling them as we speak so you can expect a form to come home next week asking if you can make your appointment. Please be sure to return them promptly, letting me

know if the time works for you and if not, what day and time would.

Students have a half day on October 21-23, getting out at 11:50. Conferences will be scheduled from 12:30-3:30. They are only 15 minutes long however, so please come prepared with questions, comments, concerns and goals for your child.

"This one step - choosing a goal and staying to it - changes everything."  
- Scott Reed