

February 27, 2015

Dear KR Families,

I think we are all in agreement that it will be nice to say goodbye to February! It truly was an action-packed, busy, snowy freezing month, and we were only in school for sixteen days! Today we discussed what the saying, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb means. We then made a graph where the 13/17 children believed that March would come in like a lion! Hopefully, we will see the lamb will quickly follow. ☺

KR has been extremely busy! In Writer’s Workshop they have written beautiful “All About Books” for the aliens. We will finish this up next week, and move into “How Tos”: giving step by step directions. They are all working on stretching their words out, putting white space between their words and using punctuation at the end of each sentence.

In Reader’s Workshop they are learning strategies to become better readers: predicting, picture walks, stopping to think about the story, looking at the pictures to help figure out a word, look at the first and/or last letter in a word, asking if a word makes sense, does it look and/or sound right? They are really enjoying reading with their partners, as well as to their 3rd grade buddies! They are working on reading stamina and discovered they can read quietly for almost 15 minutes. I also can tell they have been playing with their sight words at home, as their confidence and fluency are improving

As an extension of math, the KR Post Office was a major success. All the students were buyers, sellers, sorters, cancellers and deliverers of stamps and mail. They continue to work on composing, decomposing and writing numbers. They are now working on numbers up to twenty.

Our *Three Little Hares and the Big Bad Polar Bear* books are nearing completing. With all the snow days, it has taken us a bit longer to complete. They should be up on the Dwight website next week.

After battling cabin fever the past five weeks and having indoor recess, the children have been outside twice this week. Hallelujah!! So, please, going forward be sure to send your child with a hat, mittens and boots. Presently, they are playing only on the blacktop behind the gym, but hopefully they will be back up on the playground soon!

Finally, I will be taking a leave of absence next week. The incomparable Mrs. Trupp will be here, as well as Dwight’s very capable intern, Ms. Perko. I have given Ms. Perko detailed lesson plans and instructions on taking care of “my babies”. I will have access to email if you need to contact me.

Fondly,

Kathy Rafsky