

## First Grade News

December 8, 2014

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful weekend. We would like to extend many thanks to Mr. Minogue, Mrs. Calandriello, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Carolan and Mrs. Pskta for coming into the classroom to present a wonderful lesson through the C.A.N.E. program on food chains.

Report cards will be coming out at the end of the week through Infinite Campus. Please be sure that you have your username and password. You may contact the office if you have any questions about your account.

### **Phonics/Penmanship:**

The new word wall words for the week are: no, some, very, want, was. Please also continue to practice all introduced words at home.

### **Reading:**

This week as we continue to learn about nonfiction books, we will learn that readers can jot down notes as they read. It may be questions, new ideas, or things that remind us of something or reactions. We will be meeting in book clubs this week in order to practice sharing our observations.

### **Writing**

As we continue to write nonfiction pieces, we will focus this week on writing with details in order to help the reader picture the details by using comparisons. We will also learn that there can be different kinds of writing in teaching books. For example, chapters can contain how-to writing, persuasive writing and stories. The children will also learn how to add introductions and conclusions to their pieces. We will close out the week by fixing up our writing by working in partnerships and pretending to be a reader.

### **Math**

This week we will focus on playing different math games to help practice using our addition and subtraction strategies. One of the games we will play in partnerships this week is called Hide and Peek. Ten cubes are placed on the table and both children check to make sure that there are exactly ten.

Player one closes his eyes and player two takes some cubes in each hand, leaving a few on the table. The number left on the table is written on a recording sheet. Player one then gets to peek into one of player two's hands, but not in the other. The peeked-at amount is recorded on the sheet, too, and then player one attempts to determine the amount hidden in the other hand. Player two opens her hand only after a number is proposed, and the strategy is shared, and the amount in the hand is then recorded. You can play this game at home with your child as a way to practice talking about the strategies that they are using to help them!

### **Winter Craft Party**

All first graders will be having a winter craft party on Monday, December 22 from 11:30-12:00. The party will be held in your child's classroom. All families are welcome to attend. Please remember to arrive early enough in order to sign in at the office prior to coming down to the classroom.

Respectfully yours,

Allison Cabezas  
Debbie Jacobs  
Maureen Rojee