

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed the snow this weekend. Here's our news!

Phonics/Penmanship

The new word wall words for the week are: make, not, my, new, for. Please complete at least 3 activities with the spelling menu. There will be a word wall test on Friday.

Reading Workshop

This week we are continuing to study fictional characters. We have learned that we can learn more about characters by noticing the things they say, do and feel. The students have been working to notice characters' feeling and provide evidence in the text to support their thinking!

How you can help at home: As you read stories at home with your children, stop to talk about characters' feeling and what clues the author gave to show the feeling.

Writing

This week we are continuing our new unit called Writing Reviews. It has been so much fun to watch the kids explore their collections and to prove why they feel one is better than the rest. As writers, they have learned that it is important to give more than one reason for their opinion. It is also important to explain each reason with supporting details.

Within the unit, the students have also learned to use comparisons and to quote experts to strengthen their point of view. **How you can help at home:** The kids will be writing real reviews soon. Start brainstorming topics with your child at home of places and things they know a lot about and could write a review on. Some ideas are movies like Frozen and Big Hero 6 or restaurants like Super Duper Weenie and Bear and Grill. They can also review places they've gone on vacation to like Disney or Atlantis. The topics are endless!

Math:

We will be starting a new math unit in Bridges called Leapfrogs on the Number Line. This unit will revolve around the number line, an essential mathematical model. Throughout, closed and open number lines are used both as models of our number system, as well as models for beginning operations with addition and subtraction. Students locate numbers on a number line, use their reasoning skills and number sense to determine unknown values that correspond to empty boxes, and explore addition and subtraction. As the unit unfolds, the range of numbers represented grows from 0-20 to 0-120. Students become comfortable skip-jumping along open number lines in multiples of 5 and 10, forward and backward, from numbers that are both on and off the decade. Wow, math can be so much fun!

Spring Party

The first graders will be making tie-dyed t-shirts for their upcoming spring party on **Wednesday, March 1st**. We will wear the shirts on our upcoming field trips. Thank you to the parents that signed up to volunteer at the party. We would love to have as many hands as possible to make each session go smoothly. Here is the schedule for each class:

1:30-2:00pm Mrs. Jacobs

2:00-2:30pm Mrs. Barzottini

2:30-3:00pm Mrs. Cabezas

(If you have not returned your t-shirt size order form, please do so by Wednesday 1/18. Thank you-)

Gentle Reminders

*Our class has Book Exchange every A Day...it is important to return your child's library books that day in order for him or her to take out new books....we can earn the Library Book Reward if we stay consistent with this!

*First graders, overall, struggle more with subtraction than addition fluency...practice subtraction facts with your child at home when possible...remind them of strategies like counting on, counting back, knowing doubles, knowing 10s, etc

*homework is hard to return without a name on it (hee,hee)

*Practice those Word Wall Words...your child should be able read and write these words in a SNAP!

*Have your child practice sentence writing with the Word Wall Words...we are working on our editing skills...your child should be able to write a sentence with 5-6 words in it. It should start with a capital and end with punctuation.

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini

Allison Cabezas

Debbie Jacobs