Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the vacation time with your wonderful children.

We want to send a huge *Congratulations* to Mrs. Cabezas who got engaged over the break!!

Reading Workshop:

We are continuing our unit called *Appreciating Fiction through the Characters' Eyes*. Below are questions that are used in the classroom to extend thinking. Please use them at home while reading with your child.

Question Stems		
Thinking Within the Text		
✓ What was the problem in the story? What did do to solve the problem?		
✓ What happened in the story? How did the story end?		
✓ Explain what you learned in this book. What did you learn about?		
✓ What were some important facts about in this book?		
✓ What information did you learn from the (chart, map, label, graph, photo, drawing,		
glossary)? What kind of information does it give you?		
Thinking Beyond the Text		
✓ Tell me some waysand are alike/different.		
✓ Tell me how felt when Why?		
✓ Why is important?		
✓ How does change? What does learn?		
✓ How do you think felt when (or about)?		
✓ Why do you think? Can you give an example from the book?		
✓ Make a prediction about How do you know something is going to happen here?		
✓ What dos the writer say that makes you think that?		
✓ What is a question you still have about?		
✓ What lesson did learn?		
✓ What was the value of to?		
Thinking About the Text		
✓ Is this a good title for this story? Why (not)?		
✓ What makes the title, a good one for this book?		
✓ What did learn? How do you know this?		
✓ Why do you think the writer said?		
✓ What did the writer mean by?		
Show the sections of the book and tell the kind of information in each section.		
✓ How does the heading help you read the book?		
✓ How did the writer help you understand?		
✓ How did the writer make this book interesting?		
✓ Look at the way the writer began the book. What did the writer do to get you		
interested in the topic?		
✓ What side do you think the writer is on? Why?		
✓ What is the significance of?		
✓ Why do you think the writer wrote this book in 1 st (or 3 st) person?		
✓ What genre did the writer use? What makes you think that?		
✓ Look at the way the writer ended the book. Do you think this is a good way to end? Why		
or why not? ✓ Give an example of a description the writer used to show what was like.		
✓ What was the most important part of the story and why?		
✓ Find the part in the story where		
✓ What did the writer mean when s/he said?		
✓ What was the writer's message?		
✓ The writer used specific words/phrases to describe Can you give examples?		
✓ How did the writer let you know that something exciting was going to happen		
(foreshadowing)? Find examples from the text.		
✓ Look back at the text and find some powerful descriptive words. Explain what they mean.		

Phonics/Penmanship:

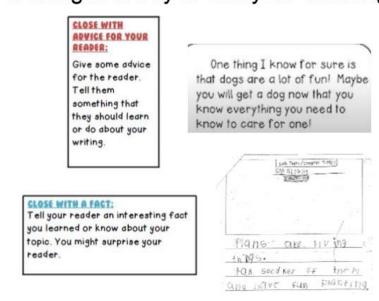
This week's words are: make, not, new, for, my. Please use the spelling menu to complete at least 3 activities at home. We will be having a Word Wall Test on these words on Friday.

Writing:

We are continuing our writing of nonfiction chapter books. The students have learned that authors add introductions and conclusions to their writing as a thoughtful way to begin and end books.



Writers don't just end their stories, they add a **Conclusion**!
-a thoughtful way to end your teaching book.



Math:

We are continuing our learning of 2D shapes. We learned that shapes can defining attributes are

Defining Attributes	Non-defining Attributes
*sides *angles *vertices (points) *parallel lines	*color *texture *size *orientation
*right angles (square corners) *curves	

Respectfully yours,

Abigail Barzottini Allison Cabezas Debbie Jacobs