

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break with your family! Here is our news for the week!

### Winter Craft Celebration

We will be having a winter craft celebration in our classrooms on Tuesday, December 19 from 11:20-11:55am. We will be doing a winter themed craft and reading winter stories. All families are encouraged to attend.

As parents ourselves, we realize that most kids come home from school saying very little or that "nothing" happened at school. Here are some questions to use to initiate a dialogue with your child about school.

### 50 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL INSTEAD OF "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class gone today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- Did you like your lunch?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile?  
What made her frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

See full list at [HerViewFromHome.com](http://HerViewFromHome.com)

### Word Work

The new words for this week are: this, we, went, be, am. Please continue to practice all introduced words. (I, like, me, and, the, he, she, is, it, favorite, his, her, has, to, because). We will have a checkpoint on Friday to assess which words the kids know in a snap. There are many

free games on [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com). Your child should be able to read and write each word in a snap. It is also helpful to reinforce builder patterns in words.

(Examples: -it: **sit, pit, grit**; -ike: **bike, hike, spike**; -and: **hand, sand, gland**)

### **Reading and Writing**

We are continuing to talk about nonfiction books and the many features nonfiction books have. Learning about all of these nonfiction features has inspired many amazing teaching books in writing. Here are some of the topics the kids are writing about: plants, cheetahs, Halloween, Pocoyo and much, much more!!

### **Math**

We are continuing to enjoy number corner in November! We have really focused on fractions and telling time. Students have discovered a pattern of friendly animals chomping snacks into wholes, halves, and fourths in the *Calendar Grid*, and the focus on fractions carries over to *Calendar Collector*. There we have introduced telling time to the hour, and students use fractions of a circle to consider whole and half on an analog clock. We just celebrated the 50th day of school and we used the hundreds grid to discover how we are halfway to the 100th day of school.

Last week we also learned 3 new games that reinforced using various addition strategies, doubles and doubles plus or minus one. Our first graders have been working on *keeping the conversation going* during math partnerships. They are learning to justify their thinking with reasons to explain their answers. Partners need to listen, then agree, disagree, add on or question their partners' thinking. It is quite amazing to hear the back and forth conversations that are developing during math workshop!!

Sincerely,

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