

Dear Parents,

Spring is just around the corner! Here's our news!

**Conferences**

Please fill out the conference sheet that will be coming home on Friday March 18 in order to confirm the conference date and time. Please return this to your child's teacher as soon as possible. We are looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you!

**Phonics/Penmanship:**

There will be no new word wall words this week. Please review the words that have been introduced so far. Remember to check out the website Spelling City. All of our word wall words are on the site when you go through the Jennings virtual library. This is a great way to help review all of the words we have learned!

**Reading Incentive Program**

Please continue to keep track of your child's reading minutes! **The goal is for students to read 75 minutes per week.** Please turn your minutes in from last week to your child's teacher, if you have not already done so. Minutes are due to your child's teacher each Monday. Thank you for your help and support with this at home. We hope all first grade classes will meet their goal this week, read, read, read!

**Reading**

Our new unit: Bringing Stories to Life through Fairy Tales and Folktales is proving to be both exciting and engaging! We have introduced the term plot mountain to the students. We have learned that this is a sequence of events, an organized pattern of events and a series of incidents. They have identified the important events and characters in a folktale. We have noticed each section of a story (climax, problem, solution, etc.) We have then charted characters, lessons, language and magical elements on our plot mountains. Wow, reading is exciting!

**Note\*** Please continue to send in Folktale and Fairy Tale books into school for your child's book bin. They are excited to have all the many selections!

**Health**

Within our Second Steps curriculum, we have continued to learn about empathy. We learned that how you feel about something now may be different from how you will feel about it later. This continues to expand students' awareness of how feelings work and improves their ability to understand their own and others' feelings by helping them explore ways feelings can change. Inviting and welcoming are important skills that can help students build friendships and avoid being left out or feeling ostracized. We have also learned that an accident is when you do something you didn't mean to do. It is

important to accept responsibility for an accident to prevent others from assuming it was intentional.

**Science:**

We would like to thank the parent CANE volunteers who came into our classrooms last week! The winter program that was presented by the parents is a hands-on activity about bird beak adaptations. The kids truly enjoyed every part of this experience!

**Here are also some other ways to support your child at home this month...**

- \*Practice addition and subtraction fluency up to 20 (use flash cards)
- \*Have your child practice counting by 10s from any number (47, 57, 67, 77, 87, 97, 107...) and mentally adding a 10 and subtracting a 10 from any 2 digit number (56+10 and 56-10)
- \*Read aloud lots of fairy tales and folk tales with them (hint, hint to our Parent Readers these next few weeks...we love these kinds of books...or rainforest books)
- \*Practice sentence writing...remember the sentence should look right, sound right and make sense (stop and call the C.O.P.S.)

**Upcoming Field Trips**

Mark your calendars! We have two upcoming field trips this spring. Permission slips and more information will be coming home closer to the date. All parents are welcome to join both trips!

- \*We will be visiting the Birdcraft Sanctuary on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Times are TBD.
- \*We will be visiting the Beardsley Zoo on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:15-1:30. (Rain date is June 3<sup>rd</sup>).

**Parent Volunteers**

We are in the process of working on our rainforest research in the library with Mrs. P. All students will be creating a book based on their research. We are in need of parents to come into the computer lab to help the students type and supervise editing of their work. We are looking for 2 volunteers per class to come during LLC time for about the next 4 weeks. You will be receiving an email from your child's room parents today. Please respond back to your child's room parent via email if you are able to help.

Respectfully yours,  
Allison Cabezas  
Debbie Jacobs  
Abigail Barzottini

