

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that it's already the last week in February. Time flies when you're having fun! Here's our news for the week.

Believe it or not, spring conferences are quickly coming up! Please fill out the conference preference sheet that is coming home in your child's folder. Please note that there is only one evening conference designated for this round of conferences.

Science

We want to extend a huge 'Thank You' to the parent volunteers that came in to each first grade classroom to teach us about bird adaptations.

Phonics/Penmanship:

The new word wall words for this week are: but, out, car, when, us.
Please continue practice reading and writing all introduced words.

Last week we learned that the letter Y can be a sneaky letter because it can copy the sounds of letters I and E.



Reading Workshop:

At this point in the year, it's obvious to us as teachers, the growth in our students' reading development, and how it has positively affected them. In the beginning of the year, everything needed to be read to the students such as directions to complete activities, stories, labels, signs and the simplest things we take for granted. This of course caused the children to be dependent on us to understand

what was expected of them. Now it is the most wonderful feeling as we see our students becoming more independent and taking pride in their autonomy. They read directions on their own, they read the calendar and know the date, they read around the school, and they read books all the time! In fact, they are willing to attempt to read anything and everything! It is so clear how their reading growth has increased their level of confidence, which ultimately has empowered them. The children see for themselves how learning to read enables them to be independent, self-assured and to feel more grown up!

Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin to assess each student's current reading level. We are looking forward to sharing your child's progress at their upcoming conference.

Gentle Reminders:

We are trying very hard to encourage independence in our first graders here in school. We ask that you help us with this at home as well. Please remind your child that they are responsible for their homework assignments. That includes remembering what they are, explaining the procedures or directions to you, and remembering to place it in their backpack the second it's complete. We have many first graders who immediately blame their parents for missing homework. We like to tell them that it is really not your fault. It is a first grader's responsibility to take care of their homework.

Thank you for your help and support at home. This is a team effort and we work beautifully together!

Respectfully yours,
Allison Cabezas
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Maureen Rojee