Class Newsletter December 12, 2014

Dear Friends and Families,

Next Friday before we all head off for break the whole school will gather for a holiday assembly. Ms. Greene will lead us in a sing-along to get us in the holiday spirit. Please come and join us if you can at 2:00 pm in the gym.

Here’s a summary of what we have learned:

**Readers’ Workshop** – This week we continued to evaluate texts and review all the reading comprehension strategies we have learned over the last several weeks. Our learning target is ***I can***

***be an active reader by making connections, visualizing, making inferences, asking questions, synthesizing, and evaluating.*** Students have been using a planner to help them organize their

thinking around their evaluation of books they read. Planners help children include the most

important information and details in their writing, making it clear, focused and interesting for the reader. Ask them how they’d rate a book you read together at home, and then ask them why they’d

give it that many stars.  You might be surprised by how well your childis able to evaluate a text

and articulate their rationale!   I am so impressed!

**Homework -** Keep up that wonderful reading at home! Making reading part of your child’s routine will reinforce her or his concept of herself or himself as a reader.  Let them see you reading your own materials, both fiction and informational texts like newspapers, lists, emails, even bills,  and help your child see that reading is an important part of everyone’s life. *All of our sight words to date are on our website* [*www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com*](http://www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com/)

**Integrated Studies –** Our learning target in **Writing/Social Studies** is ***I can express my own family culture and learn to respect others’***. Students are learning that everyone has a family culture, and that everyone’s culture is different, valuable, and equally important. We're working on expressing our unique family culture through poetry! This week we have been working hard at turning our Family Culture Poems into a booklet. Each section of their poem has been divided up into pages that include a colorful drawing that matches the words they wrote. Our Family Culture Poems include some of the more visible aspects of culture, such as our family structure, food we cook, and holiday traditions, as well as the less visible such as our rules and values at home, familiar smells and sayings, how we spend our leisure time, and things specific to just our family like special nicknames. We’re also learning about “cultural norms,” and the idea that if something is different than what we’re used to, it doesn’t mean it’s strange or funny, it’s just different, and normal for someone else. We’re learning to recognize and respect the diverse cultures in our school community and beyond. We can’t wait to share our poems with you!

**Math** – Our current learning target is ***I can use addition to help me solve subtraction problems***. This week the class worked with solving action-based take from with result unknown problems, they start with a set of objects, then take some away, and finally end with a smaller set of objects. Students are working with simple math drawings to represent these stories and connecting the action of crossing off to the symbol of subtraction.

For example: *Eight ducks are swimming in the pond. Four ducks fly away. How many ducks are still swimming in the pond?*

First graders are practicing making varied math statements to explain the remaining amount. e.g., “4 ducks are swimming,” “There were 4 bears left,” “Four bears stayed in the forest,” “Then, there were 4 bears altogether.” This permits students to think and speak flexibly about the unknown, rather than associate specific key words with a particular operation. For example, *altogether* does not always indicate addition. To support this learning at home come up with simple subtraction story problems and have your child solve using a simple math drawing, equation, number tree and math statement.

**Word Work** – Our current *Fun*dations unit is: **Ending Sounds –ng & –nk, with -s** These words include; **banks, rings, things, bonks, thanks**

Here are the sight words we practiced this week: **these, would could, should, him**

Next week’s sight words are: **into, time, has, does, two**

Current sight words and *Fun*dation skills are listed on our website [www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com](http://www.mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com/)

**Some other logistics:**

* The playground area has been very muddy recently; please send your student in with boots to wear out on the playground and a pair of shoes to wear in school. We want to keep their feet clean and dry!
* **School Wide Assembly Tuesday, December, 16th at 9:15am** to honor Teacher of the Year Rebecca Haslam
* **School Wide Assembly Friday, December, 19th at 2:00pm** Sing along with Ms. Greene
* **Monday, December 22 2014 - Fri., Jan. 2, 2015 NO SCHOOL**
* **Monday, January 5, 2015 School Resumes**

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Jeannine E. Galusha

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