Class Newsletter December 19, 2014

Dear Friends and Families,

Happy Holidays!! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season filled with love and laughter shared with friends and family. See you next year!!

Here’s a summary of what we have learned:

**Readers’ Workshop** – Our learning target is ***I can*** ***be an active reader by making connections, visualizing, making inferences, asking questions, synthesizing, and evaluating.*** This week we

reviewed all our reading comprehension strategies and practiced monitoring for meaning as we read.

As we monitor we stop after a few pages or a chapter and think about what we read and what has happened in the story so far. This helps first graders to remember to be using their active thinking while they read by using their comprehension strategies.

**Homework -** Don’t forget to keep reading over vacation!  Maybe pull out your favorite holiday books and enjoy them together.  Remember, reading aloud to your children counts!  You can find all of our sight words to date, as well as what’s coming up for the next few months at[*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’***. This week the children worked really hard on finishing up their Family Culture Poems and adding colorful pictures that match their words. We teamed up with the Art teacher again, Ms. Sammut, to help us create beautiful, meaningful covers for our booklets. We can’t wait to share our poems with you and hope this is something you keep for a long time!

**Math** – Our current learning target is ***I can use addition to help me solve subtraction problems***. Our first grade mathematicians learned how to label their number trees when they are solving story problems. Labeling helps them understand what each number represents and gives them deeper understanding of the problem. Here is what a labeled number tree could look like for this problem: *9 books in the bookcase. 5 books are on the top shelf. How many book are on the bottom shelf? T*

5

 *BC*

9

4

  *B*

Additionally, we practiced our addition and subtract fact fluency to 20. Over break ask your child to show you the card game ***I Spy-Addition***. This is a great way to practice their addition fluency!

**Word Work** – Our current *Fun*dations unit is: **Blends: Blends at the beginning of the words.** Blends contain two or more consonants together each making its own sound such as /s/ and /l/, /sl/. These words include; **flap, stop, drop, drum, snug**

Here are the sight words we practiced this week: **into, time, has, does, two**

Week of January 5th sight words are: **first, been, who, now, find**

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

**Some other logistics:**

* **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,

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