Class Newsletter February 13, 2015

Dear Parents and Families,

This week, I completed our mid-year reading and math assessments.  It’s so exciting to see how students are progressing!  I’m using testing data to update guided reading groups, reading levels, reading and math “boost” groups, and to inform teaching.  Report cards will come home next Friday, please read the comment section for each subject area to learn about your child’s growth and skill areas they are currently working on.

Thank you for coming into the classroom this morning for our Trimester II Work Celebration. The class was so thrilled to show off all their hard work and learning this trimester. These celebrations always make them feel so proud of their accomplishments and growth. A special thanks to the families who brought in a snack to share. Your support is very much appreciated!

Here’s a summary of what we learned this week:

**Literacy- Informational Text -** Our learning target is, ***I can identify informational text features and use them to help me read with a purpose.***  We switched our focus a little this week in readers’ workshop and used informational text to help us practice our reading fluency and expression. Good readers read smoothly, like we are talking, by phrasing and scooping words in a sentence. They raise the tone of their voice for question marks, stop at periods, and give characters a voice. We will practice this skill more next week by reading and performing the play, *The Emperor’s Egg*, adapted from the book written by Martin Jenkins. Students will learn how to read a script, follow all characters’ parts and being ready when it is their time to read. At home listen to your child’s fluency and expression when they read to you.

In writers’ workshop we continue to work on our penguin research folders. Through this work students are learning how to read with a purpose. They’re practicing note taking by paraphrasing key ideas in the text

that is important to their purpose. Ask your child about the important facts they have been learning about penguins.

**Reading Homework**- Thank you for all your help getting students reading at home!   Please help your child keep track of their borrowed books and return them once a week.  If you believe the books are lost, please contact me either via email or send a note into school.  I want students to be responsible for our materials and am holding them accountable for their homework bags and books.  Thank you for your support!

**Math – Linear Measurement, Comparison Language and Telling Time-** Our current learning targets are ***I can measure an objects length and I can compare objects as taller and shorter***. Our penguins came to life this week!  Each student maked their own life-size emperor, little blue, gentoo, chinstrap, rockhopper, or king penguin. They measured the height of their penguin and used the data we collected to accurately construct their penguin with their unique characteristics. We’ll be using these to compare the heights of different penguins to each other and to ourselves.  Students are using comparative language like *taller than* and *shorter than* to compare height.  Ask your child which life-size penguin they chose to make.

**Integrated Studies – Science and Writing –**Our learning target is **I can identify that light hits materials differently.** This week the class answered the question, *“What happens when light hits different materials?”* Before testing our materials (tinfoil, waxed paper, white paper, colored paper, plastic wrap, etc) we predicted whether most light, some light, or no light of a flashlight would shine through the material. Then we tested our predictions. The core idea students were learn is that some materials allow light to pass through them, others allow only some light through and others block all the light and create a dark shadow on any surface beyond them, where the light cannot reach. Try your own light experiment at home!!

**Word Work –** Our current *Fun*dations unit is: Words with up to 5 sounds**. Example words include:** ranch, twist, shrimp, blimp,

Sight words we studied and quizzed this week: **live, back, give, most, very**

Next week’s sight words are**: after, thing, our, just, name**

**You can find all our sight words to date, as well as what’s coming up next at**

http://mrsgalushasfirstgrade.weebly.com/word-work.html

**Some other logistics:**

* **Trimester II ended today. Report cards come home Friday, February 20th.**
* **I will be out of the classroom next week, February 16th-February 19th.** I am attendinga readers’ workshop institute at the Teachers College at Columbia University in NYC.
* **School Wide Assembly, Friday, February 19th , 1:45pm, hosted by the 1st and 2nd grade!**
* **WINTER RECESS starts February 22nd ! School will resume on WEDNESDAY March 4th.**

Please feel free to contact me anytime, and please check out our website!

Sincerely,

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