Class Newsletter February 6, 2015

Dear Parents and Families,

We celebrated the 100th day of school on Friday!  All throughout the day the students were making connections to the number 100. We listed 100 books we have read in Readers’ Workshop, filled in our 100th day packet in Writers’ Workshop, creating a 100 eyed monster, shared our collections of 100 in math, and built counting strings with 100 beads grouped by tens. Students drew some fantastic pictures of what they will look like when they are 100 and shared some great ideas of what they would do with 100 dollars.

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

**Readers’ Workshop & Writers’ Workshop- Informational Text-** We’re deep into our studies of

informational text!  Our learning target is, ***I can identify informational text features and use them to***

***help me read with a purpose.***  This week, we continued with our penguin research.  Our vocabulary words

for this project are: **research, source,** and **data.**  Students are learning how to check multiple sources to collect data about their topic.  Next week we’ll be learning how to use our data to write about our new learning.  We can’t wait to share this sophisticated work with you!  **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING WORK CELEBRATION!  We’d love to have you come on Friday, February 13th to see all**

**our work with our interdisciplinary unit on penguins and informational text.  We’ll do it first thing in**

**the morning, so you can come right in with your child at the bell and stay until about 9:00.  We hope**

**to see you there!  Please email me if you’d be interested** **in bringing in a snack to share.**

In Reading, we practiced our active thinking skills to read informational text.  We practiced synthesizing, making connections, inferring, and asking questions; these strategies help us better understand what we

are reading.  Students have been paying attention to which texts have helpful text features that catch our

eye, grab our attention, and help us make decisions about what to read.

**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***. We continued constructing our penguin story problems with missing addends and missing subtrahends. As students finished they were then challenged to solve other student’s story problem. For each problem they needed to write an equation with an unknown that matched, draw a math model that matched, and state the answer, including the unit, for example; 8 adult *penguins*.

Additionally, first graders started learning how to tell time on analog clocks and digital clocks. By the end of first grade students are expected to know how to *Tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clock.* To support this learning at home have your child practice telling time with the clocks you have around your home.

**Word Work –** Our current *Fun*dations unit is: Closed Syllables: in these words the vowel is followed by a consonant. The vowel is "closed in" by the consonant**. Example words include:** drags, thick, test, box, mug

Sight words we studied and quizzed this week: **little, work, know, read, year**

Next week’s sight words are**: live, back, give, most, very**

**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:**

* **SAVE THE DATE: Trimester II Work Celebration Friday, February 13th 8:08am. Please email me if you would like to bring in a snack to share. Thank you!!**
* The annual **Winter Music Concert** is just around the corner! K-2 will be performing on **Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00pm.**
* **Valentine’s Day will be celebrated this Friday, February 13th.** I will send home a note on Monday with all the names of the students in the class, if your child decides to bring cards in for their classmates. Homemade cards work great!!
* **Trimester II ends February 13th. Report cards come home Friday, February 20th.**
* **I will be out of the classroom the week of February 16th-February 19th.** I am attendinga readers’ workshop institute at the Teachers College at Columbia University in NYC.

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

Sincerely,

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