Class Newsletter March 20, 2015

Dear Parents and Families,

Congratulations to the three students in our class, Annie, August, and Alex, whose art work was chosen to be displayed at City Hall for the Annual Children’s Art Exhibit. I look forward to meeting with you for conferences next week. Remember that next Thursday is an early release day, 11:30am, and the students have Friday off from school.

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

**Reading – Fluency and Punctuation -** Our learning target is, ***I can read smoothly and expressively like talking*.**  We continued our work on reading fluency, expression and punctuation. 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. This week we looked at the apostrophe and how it can he used in different ways, to replace letters in a contraction and to indicate a possessive case. We learned that that the ellipsis can indicate an unfinished thought, a leading statement, a slight pause, or a nervous or awkward silence. We had fun reading parts of our “just right” books and having the class guess what types of punctuation was read. To support this learning at home have your child point out the different punctuation they are noticing while reading their ‘just right’ books to you.

**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!

**Writing – Informational Text** – Our learning target is, ***I can use text features in my own informational writing to help my reader understand my topic.*** Our informational texts are looking great! First graders are sorting through the notes they took while researching key details about penguins and creating an ‘All About Penguins’ text to show off all this newly learned information. They have really taken on the challenge of including introductions and conclusions in their pieces. An additional challenge has been including text features that help the reader better understand the topic, which is different than pictures we draw for fiction writing. The class sure has blown me away with all the content knowledge they are able to write about in their texts. Way to go penguin experts!

**Math –** Our Learning Target is, ***I can use the ‘take from ten’ strategy to help me solve problems with three numbers.*** For the past few weeks we have been working with the ‘make ten strategy’ with addition. This week we started using the ‘take from ten’ strategy to solve subtraction problems specifically looking at taking away nine. Students solved problems such *as, “Ten snowflakes fell on Sam’s mitten and 6 fell on his coat. Nine of the snowflakes on Sam’s mitten melted. How many snowflakes are left?”*



This allows students to use this ‘take from ten’strategy when the ten is already separated for them and in a variety of contexts (concrete, pictorial, and abstract), which sets them up for the work of later lessons of the topic where they must decompose teen numbers on their own to take from ten.

**Word Work –** Our current *Fun*dations unit is: Compound words, two syllable words**. Example words include:** backpack, cupcake, basketball, suntan, bathtub

Sight words we studied and quizzed this week: **where, help, much, before, through**

Next week’s sight words**: Short week, P/T conferences, NO NEW WORDS!**

**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:**

* **Students have a HALF DAY next Thursday, March 26th and NO SCHOOL on Friday, March 27th due to parent teacher conferences.**
* Class placement information forms for the 2014-2015 school year went home last Tuesday. **Please return this form to your classroom teacher by Wednesday, March 25, 2015.**
* **Our next field trip is to the Flynn Theater to see Harold and the Purple Crayon.** An art teacher from the Flynn will be coming into our classroom on March 25th to help prepare first graders for this presentation. More details will be sent home next week.
* One of our Champlain parents has kick started the ***Adopt a Lunch Table* program.** This program is recruiting parents to volunteer during lunch and recess. If you are interested in participating in this program please email ceslunch@gmail.com

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

Sincerely,

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