

March 12, 2010

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

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Dear Families and Friends,

This week we have enjoyed the warmer weather outside. Please however remember that the playground can be muddy. The children have found it helpful to wear their regular boots or mud boots outside. We also talked about bringing a sweatshirt to wear if it gets too warm outside for their winter coat, but not quite warm enough to be in short sleeves.

During the week of March 22nd the children will be going ice skating during the same days that they have PE, (Tues and Fri). I don't have all of the details but we will walk over to the High School and skate in the afternoon. We hope you will be able to join us. As soon as I have the official notice from Mrs. Hutton, I will send it home.

This week we enjoyed learning about how birds have special adaptations or features of their bodies that enable them to survive. For example, birds have a special chord or tendon in their leg that helps them to hold on to the tree branch and not fall off even if they are sleeping!. The children wrote about these adaptations during Writers' Workshop and will share them with you during their Student-led Conferences in May. You will enjoy seeing how much they have grown as writers!

Upcoming Events

Skating the Week of March 22nd

March 26th: Report Cards go home.

March 30th: Parent Information Night about Student Led Conferences

Readers' Workshop

Many parts of Readers' Workshop allow the children to self-select books and respond to them in a variety of ways. Recently they began writing in a book log about once a week. During this time they summarize the "Big Idea" of the story and then write about a personal connection. This type of writing is becoming easier for the children.

The children also work on non-fiction text through their Book Journals and National Geographic magazines. This month our magazine features different types of animals and the special features about animals. Later on in the year the children will select an animal to read about and write a mini-report about a particular animal.

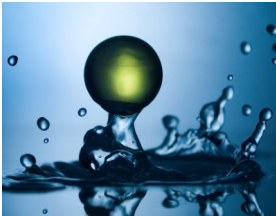
As your children read at home encourage them to make inferences and predictions. When possible, ask them to summarize in their own words the events of the story. As they read aloud to you please remind them to make self-corrections as needed and they should be more comfortable breaking down a longer word into syllables to help them to decode.

Everyday Math

In Unit 6 we have been working on Fact Families. The children are learning how to find the missing number of a fact family triangle by determining if they need to add or subtract the given numbers.

We have also revisited "In-Out Function Machines". The children are now working on finding the missing number by doing the opposite of the given rule if the "In" number is missing. In the weeks ahead they will continue to practice this in class and then they will bring home some homework related to this skill.

We also practiced measuring line segments to the nearest cm. The quarter has been introduced this week as well. We practiced counting groups of quarters and then began counting on the other mixed coins. Please keep practicing this skill at home if your child is having difficulty as this is a challenging skill if they have not had much experience with money.



Matter

Our activities around liquids have allowed us to investigate that liquids can "flow" at different rates depending on their consistency or "thickness".

We also made predictions about which liquids will travel down a slick surface faster. Next week we will observe that some liquids float in water, while others sink.

Our final activity will be around ooblech. The children will need to determine if it is a liquid or a solid and explain why.