

February 10, 2010

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

Susan Filipek

sfilipek@ccsuvt.org

Work: 878-1377

ext. 2529

Dear Families and Friends,

This week has been quite busy and full of excitement with the 100th Day of School and "Friendship Day" both falling on the same week.

The children enjoyed creating necklaces from 100 beads. They also played a variety of math games involving adding and subtracting to 100 as well as building a dollar by making coin exchanges. Some of the children wrote about what they would do if they found a \$100 and others had fun finding out how to write 100 in other languages.

This week we also had Four Winds. The topic was about how animals use their teeth and how herbivores and carnivores need different types of teeth for the food they eat.

Readers' Workshop

Upcoming Events

Please remember there will be no school during the week of February 22-March 2nd.

During our read aloud times and individual reading we are continuing to work on making connections between events in the text and our own lives. When possible we also talk about the connections between one book and another. For example in our new read aloud book, *Martin's Mice*, the character Martin is similar to Ereth as he makes friends with the mice on the farm and wants to protect them just as Ereth did with Poppy and her children.

During Reading times the children are also working on making predictions about what may happen next in our stories and are giving reasons to support their thinking.

When your children are reading at home encourage them to reread familiar text so they may become more fluent and start to use expression. Encourage them to read entire sentences and to pause at appropriate punctuation.

Everyday Math

We have finished our first Math Journal. Some of the children have a few corrections to still make and will do so at various times of the day as we will begin Unit 6 next week. The Math Journals will remain at school as the children will share them with you as evidence of their learning during their Spring student-led conferences in May.

Some of the key concepts that Unit 6 will focus upon will be learning fact families and having quick recall of our basic facts. The value of the quarter will also be used for our money combinations. Finally when measuring objects and line segments we will be using centimeters, not just inches.

Matter

Some of the concepts that we have been discussing are that solids keep their shape because their molecules are packed together tightly. For example, we talked about how you can put your finger through water but not ice. We spent time grouping solids by their colors, shapes, "hardness" and ability to roll or stack.

When we begin discussing liquids next week we will observe that liquids do not have shape. Instead they take on the shape of their container(s). Also, we will discuss and observe that liquids can be thick or thin and slippery or sticky. The children will also observe what happens when different liquids are mixed together.