

January 8, 2010

First Grade News from Room 12

Contact Information

Susan Filipek

sfilipek@ccsuvt.org

Work: 878-1377

ext. 2529

Upcoming Events

January 14th : A trip to the Flynn.

Dear Families and Friends,

Happy New Year! It sounded like the children had a wonderful vacation. Getting back into the routine of school has been a little challenging but we are almost there.

Beginning next week we will be adding in a Sharing Component to our Morning Meeting. Sharing allows the children an opportunity to tell us about important events in their lives, or about special upcoming events. It is not a time for the children to bring in toys as that tends to become a "boast and brag session". Some examples of sharing have been a photograph of a special place they have been, or a sample of one or two baseball cards so they may talk about their collection. Often children don't bring anything at all and just tell us about their sharing. Sharing time also gives the children a chance to stand up in front of a group and speak clearly about their topic. It also allows the other children to ask meaningful questions about the topic so we can gain more information. You will find a Sharing Schedule in their Friday Folders.

On Tuesday next week we will be traveling to the Flynn to see Strega Nona. Please be sure your child eats a good breakfast because we will have afternoon snack on that day.

Readers' Workshop

During the month of January I will again be administering the Fountas and Pinnel reading assessment to all of the students. We will also be doing some other reading and writing assessments that will check on our fluency, ability to spell common sight words and re-evaluate our Word Study groups.

As part of our Readers' Workshop activities we will be completing at least one book response in a journal that will stay at school. The focus of our responses for this month will be Making Connections. The children will be asked to read a story independently and make either a personal connection to an event in the story or with the book character. Some of them may also work on making "text to text" connections. This is when they relate an event of the story to another story that they have previously read.

Everyday Math

We have completed Unit 4 in our Everyday Math Journal. The children did a nice job with learning how to use a ruler to measure accurately to the nearest inch. Some of them have even started to measure to the half inch.

This unit introduced us to telling time to the quarter hours as well. Please continue to have your children work on this as some of them are confused with the phrases "quarter after", "quarter past" and "quarter to". While the unit didn't address writing digital time we have been working a bit on that as well. One of the games that we played as a whole group was Telling Time Bingo.

Unit 5 will focus on the concepts of Place Value.

Social Studies and Science Information

Our Family Unit was completed and their timeline books were sent home. I hope you enjoyed looking at them with your children. Later in the year we will go back to the theme of Social Studies.

Our next unit will be Matter. This science unit will introduce children to the concepts of Liquids and Solids. We will probably also take advantage of this wonderful snow and do some investigations around Snow. Please look for a homework assignment in their Homework Folder next week on creating their own "ice cube keeper".

Other Important Information

Unless the temperature drops below 0 we always go outside for recess. Some of your children play afterschool or walk home. If that is the case, you may want to send in an extra pair of mittens or gloves so they don't have to put the wet ones on.

I also let the children know that it is their responsibility to check their backpacks each morning for all of their outside gear. The nurse's office has a few extra items available, but since we are the last recess of the day they are often in use. Thank you in advance for helping to remind your children to check their own backpacks.