

# First Grade January-February Classroom Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome 2012!

We would like to let you know what we are teaching during these winter months so that you can support your child's learning.

In Math we have been working hard to learn all of the Math Facts. The children need to name those math facts quickly and effortlessly. Your child's Math Facts envelope should always be in their backpack. This way they can practice them at home every night and then have them during the school day also. At present, we have many children who can give us the answers on their Math Facts Test but few of them can give the answers quickly. It is really important to future Math skills that each student have all of their math facts memorized. Help your child learn those strategies that help them do the facts quickly. "When adding one, the answer is the next number. When you add or subtract zero, the answer stays the same. Etc."

And yes, subtractions facts will be added soon.

So, work on math facts nightly for a short time!

Other math skills we are working on during January and February include:

- Adding 3 whole numbers whose sum is 20
- Finding the unknown in equations:  
 $4 + 5 = \underline{\quad} + 3$
- Commutative Property of numbers  $6+1=1+6$  and  $3+4+5=4+5+3$
- Measurement
- Subtraction

We are currently in the process of testing each student on their reading progress. This will continue during the month of January. The children are doing an excellent job on the actual reading part of the assessments. The challenge for first graders at this time of year is always answering the written questions on their reading completely. Please monitor your child's written work that is coming home. Help your child honestly critique their work. What can they do to improve their work? Is their written work clear? Do they refer back to the story they are writing about? If they are writing their own narratives, are they learning to add lots of details?

We are also in the process of testing the students spelling skills. The assessments will help us create Spelling groups. We will begin spelling groups once the current reading and spelling tests are complete. More about this later.

The Science and Social Studies for Marking Period 3 includes naming natural features of the earth. We will talk about natural and man-made resources in our environment and look for ways humans harm the environment and ways humans support our environment. We will also talk about the continents, land forms, the oceans and look at globes and atlases.

## **Special Events**

All of our classes have enjoyed celebrating Martin Luther King's Birthday. We will continue reading poems, stories, and books about Dr. King this month.

Chinese New Year on January 23<sup>rd</sup> begins the Year of the Dragon. We will find many ways to celebrate this fun cultural holiday.

100 Day will be arriving soon also. 100 Day is a favorite first grade event. We will explore the number 100 in many, many ways this day.

And of course, Valentine's Day is coming next month too. A class list will come home early in February so that your child can

address their valentines. Included will be information about your child's party. We hope to see you then!

Keep in touch,

Call or email us with your questions or comments!

# Happy New Year!

The First Grade Team

