March Came in Like a Lion...

Dear Parents,

This month our students continue to work hard to make connections between texts, make inferences, and use their reading strategies.

Students continue to focus on informational writing. For students to demonstrate proficiency for the Grade 1 standards for this measurement topic they must compose text with evidence of:

1. A simple introductory sentence that states a topic.
2. Facts related to the topic.
3. A concluding statement.

Just before Spring Break we will start writing our opinions of the countries we researched. Just like informative writing they need:

1. A simple introductory sentence that states the opinion.
2. Reasons that support the opinion.
3. A concluding statement.

Please make sure to continue to have your child read every night. In this issue, we will revisit important reading strategies to help your child monitor his/her comprehension.

Remember that reading is more than just reading the words on the page. Students need to exemplify their comprehension through oral discussions as well as written responses. Our goal is to make active readers that stop and think, re-read when they don’t understand, and synthesize information to respond to what they read.

As usual, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
The First Grade Team

Finding the Important Message

Good readers are able figure out what the author is trying to tell us. Good readers select the important information, weave it together, and integrate it with background knowledge to identify the author’s message.

How can I help my child find the important message?

1. First, retell the story using the following questions:
   - Who was the story about?
   - When did the story happen?
   - Where did the story happen?
   - What was the character’s problem in the story?
   - How did he/she go about solving it?
   - How did the story end?
   - Think about how a character is feeling.
   - Think about what a character must be thinking.

2. Second, ask your child what lesson the character learned by solving his/her problem?

3. Third, ask your child to think about what lesson you could learn from that character?

Things to remember about the central message:

- It is a general statement.
- It ties into the lessons that the reader can learn from the story.
- It connects to the problem in the story and how the problem was solved.
- It helps the reader understand why the author wrote the story.
Homework Reminders
To Help Your Children Stay on Track

The purpose of the homework is to encourage your child to become more independent and responsible for completing his/her work and to reinforce skills that we have done in class.

**Math Homework**
- Weekly schedules come home on Mondays and are due at the end of the week.
- Weeks in which there is a day off, there is usually no math homework.

**Read With Me Club**
- Read nightly for 10 minutes with your child or have your child read to you nightly for 10 minutes.
- Sign the "Read With Me" recording sheet each night that your child reads for 10 minutes.
- When the recording sheet is filled, bring it in for a certificate and the recording sheet.

**Book reports are due at the end of each month**
- New book reports come home at the beginning of the month.
- At home, students pick a book of their choice, read it, and complete the book report about it.

**Home Journals are due weekly**
- Students write one home journal entry throughout the week about a topic of their choice.
- Bring the home journal in each week to share.

**A Call for Supplies**

As we continue to work hard to reach the end of the school year, many of your children's school supplies have been depleted. **Please ask your child if any of their supplies need to be replenished**

Some suggestions may be:
- Pencils with erasers
- Glue sticks
- Dry erase markers
- Erasers
- Crayons

Please send these supplies in with your child to ensure that he/she has the items that we use daily in class. Thank you very much!