

November 2009

Dear Parents,

I'm pleased with the progress the children have displayed during the past two months. They are a very enthusiastic group, and seem to be enjoying the school day.

Everyone is very excited about our reading activities. The children are learning to recognize many new words now, through reading instruction using a variety of literature. Please support our classroom lending library. Each child has a plastic bag with his or her name on it. The children are encouraged to sign out one book daily from our classroom. Please try to return the book and the bag the following school day. Please share the book with your child. It may be one he/she can read independently, or one that you will need to read to your child. Finger pointing is very important especially in the early readers in which the pattern of the book is easily memorized. We teach students to use several strategies when they come to an unknown word:

- to think about what makes sense
- to get the beginning sound in their mouth
- to look at the picture
- to go back and read it again
- to read on
- to make a good guess
- to ask someone

We also enjoy reading the daily news that we create together. The daily news is used to teach a variety of reading, writing and language skills in a very meaningful way!

The children have been very busy writing daily in their journals. We have been focusing on adding details, spelling high frequency sight words, spacing between words, using upper and lower case letters, and using punctuation at the end of a sentence. The children are also learning to sound out words so that they can spell them on their own. They say the word slowly, listen to the sounds, count the parts they hear, and write down the letters that represent the sound. Everyone is very excited about their progress!

In Math, we continue to work on counting skills, and developing number sense through the use of a variety games using manipulatives. We are also working on number facts for addition and subtraction, tallying, telling time, and counting money. Thanks for working with your child to complete the Home Link activities. The "home links" which are an integral part of the Everyday Mathematics Program, are considered as homework and need to be returned to school. Home Links are the Everyday Mathematics version of homework assignments. Home Links consist of active projects and ongoing review problems, and serve three main purposes 1) they promote follow up 2) they provide enrichment and 3) they offer an opportunity for you to become involved in your child's mathematics education. Any math homework for the week will be sent home in the blue folder. An effort grade for homework is included on the First Grade Progress Report.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are in November. Attached please find a conference reminder. We will go over the First Grade Progress Report and discuss your Child's progress at the conference. *THERE IS NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AND TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24.*

Thanks for all your support, and I look forward to meeting with you at Parent Conferences.

Sincerely,

Donna Beaulieu

