

January 31, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been busy continuing to do our weather watching. The students have had a book that they have observed the weather four days in a row to see how it is different and the same. They have brought this home to share with you. This is a fun way to get weather into our curriculum. With Groundhog Day this weekend, they will also be looking for weather clues. We read a little bit about it this week to encourage them to look for weather changes.

We will begin a new Number Corner on Monday. February is an exciting month for kindergarten because we have many things that take place. We celebrate our 100th day of school next Friday! I ask students to count out 100 items and bring them to show the class. Many families have had fun with this over the years. Try to see what you can come up with to send in with your child. If they get them ready early and want to bring them to keep in their cubby, that is okay. They will bring them back home next Friday. Please contact me if you have any questions. We do activities throughout the week for this special day.

In Foundations, we have done several new letters this week. We are trying to finish up the lowercase letters so we can move onto the uppercase letters. We did j,p,l and h this week. They are able to do longer lessons now than earlier in the year. We also learned about several new snap/trick words. These are simple words that they will see in their reading books and become words that they should automatically know to read or write. We now have the following words on our wall: a,and,are,at,be,he,l,look,me,she,the,to,we. They would be good to keep on your fridge for them to practice reading. Magnetic letters on metal cookie sheets are also a great way to practice writing words. A fun way to practice writing letters is in new snow outside, use colored water in squirt bottles. Other ideas are using playdough, shaving cream on tables or cookie sheets (pudding or cool whip work as well).

Readers Workshop is so amazing to hear the buzz around our room with readers! I teach a little lesson and then send them off to read privately and then with a partner. They are getting stronger and stronger which is amazing to hear and see. We also do our literacy groups to meet each child at their level to introduce skills that they need to be successful.

Math centers, the students have learned a couple of new games to develop more counting skills. Our math groups also are developing strategies around counting backwards and to build more skills around their math hands. Anyone who walks into our classroom hears the learning that is happening.

I am also sending home a class list with first names for Valentine cards. Our rule is if anyone brings one Valentine they bring them for everyone. We will exchange these on Friday, February 14. We will also have a small treat that morning. If anyone would like to send in something for the celebration that day please let me know. We have 21 students. We could use fruit,

cheese/crackers, popcorn, one sweet treat, juice, paper products. Please let me know if you would like to send something in so I will know what is coming. Thank you!

The students should have brought papers home to share this week from Fire Safety. Please look for these in your child's backpack if they did not share them with you. This is important to go over with them. We will have three more dates that the firefighter will visit our classroom.

We continue to have a lot of sickness going through our classroom. Please keep handwashing going and having students get plenty of rest. There are many different things going around.

#### Upcoming Events

Feb 13: Jungle Book show 5:30, PTA 6:30

Feb. 17-21: Winter Break

March 3: No school for students, Town Voting Day

March 19: Early Release-2 hours early-Parent Conferences

March 20: No school for students-Parent Conferences

Have a great weekend and hopefully the groundhog won't see his shadow on Sunday, so spring will be right around the corner!