

March 5, 2010

1st and 2nd Grade Friday Letter

Dear Families,

FYI's:

*Last day of Ski P.E. with ski school instructors on Monday. We will continue to have outdoor education on Monday afternoons for the three weeks after. Plans for these afternoons are being finalized this week.

*Conferences are coming up! They will span two weeks: March 16-18 and March 23-25. The schedule is posted outside the classroom. Please sign up and let me know if you have any special requests.

*The 1st/2nd Grade Bake Sale is Monday March 22nd.

*Joni and Anne are running an awesome Earth Day poetry and art project this month with the 1st-4th graders. We have workshops scheduled with Joni a few times this month.

Friendly reminders:

*Please make sure your child has indoor shoes at school. Recently, I've seen a number of shoeless feet walking to music and art. Students need to have indoor shoes on when walking around the school. Crocs, slippers, sneakers, ballet flats, etc. work great. Thank you!

*Friday folders are due on Friday. If you can, please help your child remember to put them on the front table first thing in the morning.

GROUP LESSONS:

*For our reading work this week, students participated in independent reading and partner talk. Using a book from their book baggie, first graders chose two characters from a story and filled out a Venn Diagram comparing the two characters' personality traits. They also thought about what made the characters they chose similar. Second graders chose just one character and thought of three specific personality traits describing that particular character. To push their thinking further, second graders had to write examples of where they inferred in the book to give them their ideas. After working independently, students discussed with partners to compare and share ideas.

*The class has been working on revising and editing our letters this week. Students have focused on using more interesting words, writing sentences fluently, using correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. As a class, we have practiced editing on the board and students are learning some fun editing marks they can use when they peer edit.

*The students are enjoying our *Jigsaw Jones* read aloud. We have an ongoing class "detective" journal we keep with us during the read aloud to help us figure out suspects, clues, and anything else necessary to write down. We stop and discuss the story frequently, with a focus on making strong inferences and making sure we are understanding everything.

*In math, first graders had a lesson on dynamic subtraction. We discussed how one number needs to go next door and "borrow" from the neighbor. First graders will have a few more lessons on this concept. This week was a strong start. The second graders had a second lesson

in their algebra unit. We played a game called "Comparing Handfuls" where students had to predict, count, and decide who had the greater and lesser amount of coins in their hands. By playing this game, the "greater than", "less than", and "equal to" concepts were reinforced. Also, students reviewed the proper symbols to portray this concept.

*Students took their timed math quizzes. First graders had five minutes for a +8 quiz, while second graders had five minutes for a multiplication quiz on tables 0-6. Second graders keep practicing the 0-6's for next week!

*We concluded our "Does Air Have Weight?" science experiment. Using materials provided, students made balances and measured the weight of empty balloons compared to full balloons. Students saw a drop in the balance when a full balloon was placed on a balance with an empty balloon already on there. They concluded that air must have weight. Not all balances were working properly unfortunately, so we had a good discussion on variables in science experiments and how they can affect your outcome. They are turning into quite the little scientists!

*Joni put on a workshop on Thursday for the 1st-4th graders. The group discussed Earth Day and an art and poetry project they are going to take part in. Each student picked an endangered animal to research. Joni introduced metaphors by asking students to compare their animals to fabric, as in, "If your animal was a fabric, what kind of fabric would it be?" She listed a number of fun things including, type of car, type of weather, which planet, what kind of music, etc. The students were very creative and received a great introduction to metaphor. For next Tuesday, students are asked to be prepared with research on the endangered animal they chose. A handout went home in your Friday folders with specific questions.

The skating party was a blast! Thank you so much for your help with everything and sending your kids to school with skates and smiles. It's wonderful to be able to do active community building activities like this. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns at wcalcutt@telluridemtnschool.org.

Have a nice weekend!

Thanks,
Wynne

Art

The first and second graders continued their recycled weaving this week. After learning about weaving techniques and completing one large-scale project, the class began painting and drawing abstract murals on neutral toned paper. Once the murals were finished, several long cuts were made down the middle. The students worked with paints, oil pastels, markers, and felt to design brightly colored multi media strips that they wove in and out of the cut sections. The balance of colors and patterns within these collaborative pieces is quite amazing! Be sure to view the finished work throughout the school.

Spanish

This week we read Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo, Qué Ves Ahí? (Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?) and La Oruga Muy Ambrienta (The Very Hungry Caterpillar) - both by Eric Carle. Then the students each made a book in Spanish with the animals and their colors from Brown

Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See. We also worked on reviewing our numbers - focusing on the tens - while playing Bingo.