

February 3, 2012

First and Second Grade Friday Letter

Homeroom

Dear First and Second Grade Families,

This week in 1/2:

Reading/Writing: This week, the class started reading Mr. Popper's Penguins. They are so into it already! Each day, I read a new chapter. While reading, I have a student recording "important words" on sticky notes. These are words that we stop to discuss or words that our recorder thinks we may want to remember. This book has a wonderful selection of words to really build a student's vocabulary. After we read the chapter, we discuss our words and add them to our sweet little version of Captain Cook! I have been so impressed with the progress that the students have made in such a short time. The second graders are now responding with two paragraphs for each prompt. One paragraph identifies details that happen from the story and one paragraph is used to make text-to-self connections with the events that occurred during that chapter. Not only has this improved the kids comprehension skills but their writing has improved all around! To motivate the class, I have been grading each entry on a scale of one to ten. This is really helping them!

Math: The class continues to do money boxes. This week we continued to work on adding and subtracting decimals. We also did some money word problems and worked with real life examples of using money.

Social Studies/Science: The class is studying penguins and how they live in the Antarctic climate.

Classroom Reminders

The kids all need indoor shoes. Lately they have all been wearing socks in school and I need to start enforcing the indoor shoe policy. Slippers and crocs are great options but they cannot wear their outdoor boots in the classroom.

The kids need a water bottle at school. There is no drinking fountain up here, and they need to be able to sip throughout the day.

Thank you all for your continued support!

I hope you have a great weekend!

Miss Lindsay

Lindsay Pittenger
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Art

Good Afternoon,

This week in art, we created our own **Scratch Art Collage**. First we used crayons to cover an entire sheet of paper. The students were encouraged to use as many different colors as possible. Once they filled their sheet with little to no white space, we covered the entire page with a mixture of black tempera paint and liquid soap. After the paint was dry, we used small wooden picks to sketch a landscape or scene from nature. The variety of colors allowed the students to create a vibrant work of art unlike any we have explored this year. Come by next week to see our scratch paintings in the hallway. Next week, we will begin our comprehensive unit on **Native American Art**. Have a great weekend!

Warmest,
Ms. Lacey

Lacey Owen
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Spanish

Hola Familias,

This week in Spanish we began to discuss ***Los Emociones*** (The Emotions) in Spanish. For class, I created a variety of flash cards with a different emotion on each. The students were asked to sing and act out the song **Cabeza, Hombros, Rodillas, Pie** in the tone of the emotion. We sang *timido* (shy), *nervioso* (nervous), *contento* (happy), *triste* (sad), and *excitado* (excited). The students did an excellent job and brought a lot of energy to the activity. We also read the book **Quien Quería Saber** (Who Wants to Know), a Spanish children's story about the different cultures, traditions, and languages around the world. This week concludes our unit on **Los Partes del Cuerpo**, however, we will continue to discuss these terms as we move on to **La Ropa** (clothing). Have a great weekend!

Adios,
Sra. Lacey

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Music

KidSpeak

TMS students offer their view on their RRA experience:

"I like that it is a good bonding experience with your friends."

"I like that you only help us with the stuff that we need you to."

"You let us choose our instruments and our songs and you make it a free place."

"My favorite part is learning how to play the instruments and watching the song come together."

"I like how you allow us to have some space to figure things out on our own so as we get older you're teaching us to be responsible."

When asked where she learned the complicated keyboard part to her song, Kelly replied, *"On my mom's phone, on the Internet."*

Seek Mystery, Not Answers!!

Mark Galbo
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