

January 9, 2012

Hello Parents!

I hope you were able to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather, it's hard to believe it's January! We have been busy, busy, busy since we returned from vacation. Here are some of the highlights!

Literacy: we are focusing on two big concepts in our reading... digraphs and long vowels. A digraph consists of two letters that make one sound. The digraphs we have worked on are ch, sh, th, and wh. These should be automatic in your child's reading. We are beginning to focus on the long a and i sounds. The first spelling pattern the students learn for the long vowels is CVCe. We call it the magic e. This takes the simple CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words the students were reading with the short vowel sound and putting the magic e at the end. For example plan becomes plane. A great strategy to help your child read these words is to look at the vowel, have them say the long sound (the vowel says its name) and then say the whole word. We will continue working on both the long and short vowel sounds for the remainder of the school year, as they can be challenging for emerging readers.

Math: we are almost through our third unit in Math! We will be taking the unit assessment on Wednesday, please look for it in your child's folder on Friday. This unit has focused mainly on story problems with both addition and subtraction. We are trying to get the students to recognize clue words that tell them to add or subtract.

Reminders:

1. Please empty your child's homework folder on a daily basis. Papers that have a ☺ on them have been looked and are yours to keep! The poem and the nightly homework are the only papers that should return to school the next day.
2. The afterschool programs will begin next week. If your child is signed up you should have gotten a reminder last week in your child's folder. Please let me know if you think you should have gotten one and didn't.
3. Wednesday and Friday are Gym days. Your child needs to have sneakers to participate. If you would like to leave a pair here in their cubby you may.

Have a great week!

Megan McDonald ☺