

February 5, 2017

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a nice weekend. It was cold, but I enjoyed the sunny days.

Academic Update:

Reading: We started a new unit “Readers Have Big Jobs to Do”. This unit focuses on fluency, phonics, and comprehension.

Writing: This week your child will be bringing home their Teaching Book. Please check out the web site for pictures of students reading their book to their kindergarten book buddy.

Thank you for sending in a collection your child’s favorite things. The collection kicked off our unit called, “Writing Reviews”. The teaching point for this first lesson was: “People who know a lot about something - like people who keep collections - often think, ‘What is my favorite? Which is next?’ And people write and talk to tell others about their opinions. They even try to convince others about their opinions.” I posted pictures of the children sharing their collections and their opinions.

Math: This week I will be sending home Math Assessments for Unit 4 and Unit 5. I also will be sending home Math Journal 1. The journal serves as a source for students to learn concepts from the daily lessons, as well as to practice previously taught skills. Often students work together with their peers while I rotate around the

classroom to help. Sometimes we complete problems as a class and other times students work independently. You may keep the math journal at home and use it as a means for reviewing skills. The journals are not corrected and some pages may not be complete. The journal is the practice and the assessment is for showing growth on the skills practiced.

We will start Unit 6 on Monday. Please look for the Family Letter in your child's folder.

Social Studies: We will be learning about Presidents this month.

Science: Friday we started a Unit on Light and Sound. This month the lessons will focus on light. Through various activities explorations students will learn that light travels from a source to illuminate objects.

Guiding Principles: This month we will be reviewing our Guiding Principles and how they connect with our Class Constitution. Each week we will review several of the Guiding Principles and discuss how we can work towards meeting the standard.

Other

Valentine Exchange: As I mentioned in an email, we will be having a card exchange and a few valentine related activities during the day on the 14th. First Graders love reading valentines from their classmates. Please remember - students cannot receive valentines that contain any food. Other small trinkets are okay. A bag of goldfish and one frosted cookie will be provided by

our VES kitchen and I will pick up some valentine napkins. Please include a valentine for each child.

100th Day Celebration: Thank you for sending in ketchup and mustard. Our goal is to have 100 items for the 100th Day school celebration on February 17th. Please send in the items before the 16th. Thank you.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact with my any questions or concerns.

Take Care,

Julie



