



Issue 5

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I apologize for not getting a monthly newsletter out in January. We hit the ground running once we returned from break, and it slipped my mind. We had a great month though and spent a lot of time focusing on Science and Social Studies. We discussed New Year's resolutions, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and penguins. It is a first grade standard that students understand that animals live in different environments and that they have different external features that help them to survive. We also worked on expository writing and will be writing a Penguin and Me comparison book next week.

Math - We just finished Chapter 13 (Subtraction to 12) and will test on it this week. Next week we will begin Chapter 14 (Practice Addition and Subtraction) which will conclude Unit 3. Please be sure that your child is practicing their flashcards and if at all possible, allow them to use Math Facts in a Flash or some other math fact practice software. I just sent home another Home Connect form with login information just in case you need it. **Fact mastery is crucial to success in second and third grade and can really help increase student confidence in math.**

We will soon begin Unit 4 (Money, Time, and Graphing). This is such a fun unit but I notice that students often really struggle with the concepts. I believe that this is because our society has become so accustomed to using debit cards and digital clocks that students just aren't getting the exposure to money and time that they once did. Please make it a point to use cash when possible and have your child participate in the transaction. Have them count your pocket change or help them figure out what time it is on an analog clock. It really will help.

Social Studies: This month we will focus on America, Presidents, and Black History.

Language Arts- We continue to work on our "Things that Go" unit. We've really stretched this unit out with vacations and our science/social studies unit, but will be moving on soon. Unit 4 is "Our Neighborhood at Work." I will be looking for parents/guests to come talk to the class about what they do for a living. We'd love to have you!

Scholastic Book Orders - The February book order form is coming home this week and will be due February 10th.

Montessori Work- Students continue to work independently the 45 minutes of the day. This time is also used for small groups and presenting Montessori lessons.

Spelling- I reassessed students last week and many moved into a high spelling level. I have received some questions about what color spelling group (green, blue, yellow) their child is in. You should see a page of words that comes home each week. The words are in rectangular boxes. The color of the paper shows you what color group your child is in. As always, please ask if you do not understand something related to the spelling program.

100th Day of School- Just a reminder of the optional "Dress Like You Are 100 Years Old" day in our classroom on Friday.

Flat Stanley-We will soon be starting our Flat Stanley project. The project is based off of a book where the main character is squished by a bulletin board. He is flat and is mailed to his aunt. Each student in our class will create a Flat Stanley to be mailed to a friend or family member who lives far away. That friend/family member will take pictures of Flat Stanley doing a variety of activities and will mail him back to our school. We will have a welcome home party for our Stanley's. Please be thinking of a friend or family member who would be willing to accept a Stanley.

Student Treasures - Student Treasures is a publishing company that will allow us to create a book to be published. We will be creating our book and copies will be available to purchase in March.

Six Flags Reading Program - Please remember to turn in the Six Flags reading log in order to receive a free admission ticket to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. Reading logs are due February 24th. If you need a new reading log, just send me a note or an email and I'll get one to you.



2/3 100th Day of School, Friday at the
Flagpole (8:45)

2/6 Minimum Day, 1:15

2/9 Escort a Parent Dance 5:00-7:00

2/10 Book Orders Due

1/13 No School, Lincoln's Birthday

1/14 Small Valentine's Day party in
class

1/20 No School, President's Day

2/24 See's Candy Sales begin