



January 8, 2009

An Update from Mrs. Durkin's Class

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that winter break has come and gone. Thank you to all parents who helped out with our winter celebration. The food and activities were lots of fun and the kids had a really great time while reinforcing the skills and concepts they've been learning. I'd also like to thank everyone for the very generous class gift. I was able to order an Edhelper membership, several popular book series, some materials for our classroom reward system (ask them about our new hole punches), posters & more.

In **Math**, we've been working on fractions and percents and will wrap it up next week with an end of unit assessment. Students are utilizing a variety of methods to compare and order fractions and percentages. Students are adding fractions, simplifying proper and improper fractions, and finding fractions and percents of a group. A couple of games the students have been playing to reinforce these concepts include: *The In Between Game*, *Roll Around the Clock*, and *Fraction Tracks*.

In **Reading**, we have finished reading 11 Birthdays as our read aloud and have just started Pictures of Hollis Woods. We have also started our new guided reading unit on historical fiction books. We have 4 groups reading different books. Ask your child which book they are reading and what it is about.

In **Writing**, we are publishing our personal essays where students have worked hard to develop their thesis and supporting ideas/ reasons. We are moving on to poetry where we will be writing 4 different types of poems, including the much anticipated "Where I'm From" poem. Students will be learning about different types of figurative language that are incorporated into poetry as well as the mood and feelings the poet infuses. Students are welcome to bring in some of their favorite poems.

In **Science**, we have finished our exploration of weather and are moving on to Chemistry! Students will be doing a variety of experiments to observe physical and chemical reactions. We will be identifying mystery powders by using their properties to set them apart from each other.

In **Social Studies**, students have entered into the Colonial Times and are learning about what life was like during this time period.

I hope everyone enjoyed the break and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support,

Amy Durkin

amy_durkin@sudbury.k12.ma.us
978-443-1080 x 4126