

# Room 13 News

January 8, 2008

Happy New Year! We are hard at work in 2008! Read about some of the new things we are working on...

## Reading

We are reading and learning about nonfiction books during whole group and small groups. We are learning about some of the features of nonfiction books, like captions, labels, and charts. Each child has his/her own book to help them record the "jobs" of the different features of nonfiction texts and to illustrate an example of each feature. We are working on learning and utilizing different reading strategies that are used while reading nonfiction books, because we are reading to learn and find out information.

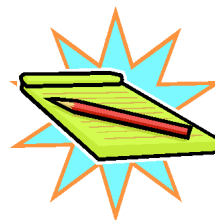
Ask your child some of the facts they have learned while reading nonfiction books in school.



## Writer's Workshop

We are getting close to the end of our unit in realistic fiction. All of the kids have done a great job writing fiction stories with realistic characters and plots. Soon the kids will be choosing their favorite piece to publish and they will then edit, revise, and recopy it with their neatest handwriting. At the end of each unit, we have a special publishing party to celebrate and share all of the kids' amazing writing. Ask your child which piece s/he might choose to publish.

Our next writing unit will focus on nonfiction writing. We will work on How-To writing (procedures) as well as an All About book, where kids will write about a topic that they are experts on.



## Science

We are just beginning a new unit on light, heat, and color. Yesterday we began learning about different sources of light. Ask your child how many different sources of light that s/he can identify in your home.

## Social Studies

We are just beginning to learn about the Native Americans who live in the Great Plains. We will be learning about their homes, the tipi, and how the importance of buffalo made this type of home necessary for these people. We will do some symbol writing, similar to the Winter Count done by some of the Native Americans in this region. We will also read many wonderful stories and legends about the people of this region.



## Math

We are currently in the midst of our unit in geometry. We've just begun learning about fractions. The kids are using colored tiles to create rectangles with equal fractions (halves, thirds, and fourths) being represented with different colors. After learning about fractions, we will learn about symmetry. We will talk about how to find the line of symmetry as well as create symmetrical designs. We are using manipulatives such as colored square tiles and pattern blocks with our investigations in this unit. We are also utilizing the *Shapes* computer software from TERC that corresponds to our curriculum while in computer lab.

## Upcoming Events

\*Second grade is taking a field trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History on February 14th. Permission slips and checks made out to the Town of Sudbury are due back this Friday, January 11. If you need another permission slip, please let me know.

\*Second graders will get to meet author Brian Lies on January 24th when he comes to Nixon.

\* Food pantry collection is this Friday, January 11. Please feel free to send in food items any day this week.

## Other

\*Due to the melting snow, please feel free to send in extra socks and possibly extra pants with your child in case his/hers gets wet at recess.

\*Our class would love any donations of disinfecting wipes to clean off the tables and pencil cap erasers. Thanks!

***\* Please send in one or two brown grocery bags for an upcoming classroom art project.***

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or feedback about what is happening in the classroom, any homework issues, etc.