The First Grade Free Press :

January 2012 Rooms 2, 6, & 11

Day 90

Upcoming Important Dates:

*2/2 Groundhog Day
*2/09 DAY 100 (unless there are more snow days)
*2/14 Valentine's Day Celebration (details from your First Grader's teacher will follow)
*2/17 Winter Break begins at 3:15 pm *2/27 Back to School

Readers Workshop:

*During our reading time, we have heard many different stories. After we listen we often respond by writing about our favorite part or discussing story elements with our group. Currently, we are stopping during a story to "wonder" about what might be happening next, and using what we know about the story to support our thinking.
*Our poetry binders are filling up quickly and are a great way to practice fluent reading alone or with a buddy.
*We've been making text connections: "this story reminds me of…" (something in our own life, another story)
*Using our "bag of tricks": taking a thinking walk, crash into a word, use the picture, and read through the whole word.
*Readers are ALWAYS thinking while they read!

Spelling:

* We have covered 30 "trick words" in our Fundations curriculum. Please review them with your child.
* Digraphs: ch, wh, sh, th, and ck have been studied.
* Some words have "bonus letters" (f,l,s, and sometimes z) that follow a short vowel. We are also learning about "glued sounds" (where the vowel doesn't make its usual sound)
*We have introduced and practiced the "glued sounds": ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, unk.

NOTE: WE GO OUTSIDE MOST EVERYDAY-EVEN IF IT'S JUST A 10 MINUTE FRESH AIR BREAK – PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A WARM COAT, HAT, &MITTENS/GLOVES ☺ THANKS!

Math:

There has been lots of math thinking happening in the First Grades! Unit 3 of Investigations has focused on Solving Story Problems.
*We have been "combining" (addition) and "separating" (subtracting) quantities.
*We know that the phrases "how many in all?" and "how many were left?" are clues about which operation to use.
* We have shared many strategies for solving addition and subtraction story problems. It is important to "show how we know" for each problem.
* As we finish Unit 3 we are counting to higher numbers. The 100th Day is coming soon!
*Unit 4 Focuses on "Data": the facts or information we collect about people and things in our world. Students will be sorting objects and information, posing question, collecting data, and making representations of the data they collect.

Writer's Workshop:

*The authors continue to be busy at work writing stories about things they know and care about. When we're "done" we find we've "just begun" and can check our words to see that they make sense and that we use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence and a period at the end. The children are also checking to see if their sight words are spelled correctly.
*We are focusing on developing "small moments" in the stories. Authors use their words to help the reader make pictures in their heads.
* We had a Publishing Party and shared our finished writing with our First Grade peers in the other classrooms. Before we shared we "polished" our sloppy copies to fix spelling and use neat handwriting!

Science/Social Studies:

*In January we kicked off Kids in Motion…..Tashua kids are developing the exercise habit….just 15 extra minutes 3 times a week makes us extra healthy! Don't forget to complete your weekly chart!
*We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream of fairness for all people.
*We learned about Chinese New Year. This is the Year of the Dragon!
* In Science we are Investigating Water. We have started a big list of Properties of Water. We observed water drops. We experimented with Climbing Water, and talked about What Shape is Water?