



# A Note From 1-B



January 23, 2009

This week we watched the Presidential Inauguration in the music room with the other first grade classes. The children were excited and interested in this important event! In math, we completed our 4<sup>th</sup> mathematics unit, *What would you rather be?* Students learned how to collect, sort, represent and compare data. They are brought home Unit 4 student math activity books yesterday to share with you! In science this week kicked off our bird unit. We reviewed what a habitat is and learned the difference between down and body feathers. We will continue to learn about all bird's beaks and feet as we begin to focus on penguins next week. Readers were given a new collection of just right books to read during "Read to Self" and "Read to Someone" time. Writers completed our journal of the first 25 sight words. Your child is expected to spell these 25 sight words correctly. Ask your child to read you the entire sight-word book!

Katherine Ward shared pictures and emails with us of a family member, Ryan, deployed in Iraq. Ryan is Shelly's cousin. We read emails about Ryan, who is a Captain and in command of a unit of 84 men, and saw pictures of him in Iraq and with President Bush! Ryan mentioned in his email that things are quiet these days, which is good news. The children have created cards and pictures to send over to Ryan and his men. We would like to put together a small care package of items to send with the cards. Please think with your child about something you can go get together that will lift the spirits of the soldiers, help them fill quiet time, and remind them that we are thinking of them and grateful for all that they do! We will send out the package on Friday, January 30.

As you may have heard, we have had a guest teacher stop in a few times this month. Andrea Cunningham is completing her dual certification and Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. I met Andrea earlier this year and am pleased to let you know that she will be completing her student teaching in 1-B. She begins on Monday. Please feel free to introduce yourselves as you have the opportunity before or after school. Welcome Mrs. Cunningham!

## **Announcements**

- New Guest Reader and Computer Volunteer sign-up sheets have been posted. Please come in and sign up!
- Volunteers needed: Authors are publishing their first writing pieces this month. If you are available to help type stories in the classroom during any of the following blocks of times, please let me know:
  - February 2, 3, or 4 between 8:45-10:15
  - February 2 or 3 from 11 to 12
- Friday, February 6: Progress Reports sent home
- Wednesday, February 11: Family Open School Night
- Friday, February 13: Field Trip to the NEA. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to chaperone this trip. I picked names from a hat and Stacy Santo, Camilla Boyce and Kristen Curtin will be joining us.
- Monday, February 16 – Friday, February 20: No School
- We are gladly accepting donations of soft tissues this cold season!

## **Conversation Starters**

- ❖ Let's do a survey at home!

- ❖ Will you read me the sight word book?
- ❖ What needs to be present for a successful habitat? (food, water, shelter, air)
- ❖ What is the difference between a down feather and a body feather?
- ❖ What healthy hygiene habits did you learn today?
- ❖ What is Poppy about?
- ❖ What new books are in your book bin?
- ❖ What do you think we should put in the care package to send to troops in Iraq?
- ❖ What did you write in your card?

Enjoy the weekend,  
Sarah Byrnes