



# A Note From 1-B



January 30, 2009

It's that time of year... progress reports will be sent home next week. As I prepared each report and reviewed my observations since September, I was struck by the social and academic growth of our classroom community. We are having more quality conversations as the children ask more questions, take more risks and participate more openly. Likewise, we are accomplishing more each day as students help one another at academic tasks, include one another on the playground and make choices that reflect our school values.

Next week, I will talk to the class about the progress report. I will tell them that it is a document intended for grown-ups to see what their child has learned and is learning. They will know that it is not created for them to sit down and read. I encourage you to focus on your child's successes, as there are many, and to use the report as an opportunity to celebrate!

I will get a chance to sit down next week with each child and highlight individual strengths and goals. We will discuss the aspects that I think may come up in your conversations at home, even though your child already knows his/her strengths and goals. Many children have (what is referred to on the progress report as) a developing understanding of a goal. This is expected and seen often in children who are putting forth consistent effort. It means that your child is still ironing out inconsistencies in his/her thinking and needs more time practicing this skill at school, which we will continue to do.

If consistent effort is going into each school day, it is not necessary for you to talk about your child's progress report outside of celebrating the progress. However, if you notice that inconsistent effort is noted, in addition to the praise, you may want to discuss with your child what he/she plans to do to put forth more consistent effort in school. Be assured that if effort is inconsistent, your child and I have talked about what he/she can do to improve this.

## Announcements

- A special thanks to our Creative Arts and PTO for bringing us the Bamidele African Dancers and Drummers! For video clips of our assembly, please follow the directions below:
  - Go to the 1-B Website  
<http://www.teacherweb.com/MA/Hunnewell/1B/>
  - Go to Podcasts and Video Links
  - Go to 1-B .mac
  - Please be patient while the videos load.
  - Enjoy!
- New Guest Reader and Computer Volunteer sign-up sheets have been posted.

- Please come in and sign up!
- 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

### Conversation Starters

- ❖ What have you been measuring at school?
- ❖ What have you been measuring with?
- ❖ Does it matter what you measure with?
- ❖ What does camouflage mean?
- ❖ Where did you hide your bird in 1-B? How did you camouflage it?
- ❖ Are penguins camouflaged? How?
- ❖ Which book did you choose to publish?
- ❖ What editing needed to be done?

Have a nice weekend,  
Sarah Byrnes