



A Note From 1-B



November 7, 2008

I have enjoyed sitting down with many of you this week. It is important to take time to share strengths and set goals for your child. I have had a chance to share some of the wonderful things we talked about with the children. It is so nice to see their faces light up with proud smiles. It is my hope that you see the same sparkle in their eyes when you discuss our conference at home. As every school year is, this is guaranteed to be a year of growth for your child. In addition to always setting new goals, we are always celebrating successes. The positive reinforcement and excitement to learn they see from you at home encourages their continued effort and desire to learn in school. Thank you! We are off to an amazing start this year. I am looking forward to continued successes for each child and for our classroom as a whole. Those of you I have not met with yet, I am looking forward to our conference next week.

This week in science we completed our Balance and Weighing unit. In this unit, students explore the relationship between balance and weight. They explore various ways to balance object and examine different strategies for comparing objects. They also learn to compare one object with a standard unit to determine its weight. Finally, they are asked to determine the serial order of a variety of objects from lightest to heaviest. This unit presents many challenging concepts to first graders. All scientists did a nice job predicting, observing and recording their results.

On a personal note, I am happy to share that Matt and I are expecting our first child in May. I told the children today and they seem very excited about Page having a cousin! Sheryl and I will keep you informed as to the details of this transition for the children and classroom.

Save The Date

- Tuesday, November 11: No School, Veteran's Day
- Friday, November 14: Family Sock Hop 6:30-8:30
- Thursday, November 27-Monday, December 1: No School, Thanksgiving
- Tuesday, December 23: Please join us for a 1-B performance of *Why Spider Lives on Ceilings* in gymnasium from 9:45-10:15.
- Wednesday, December 24 – Friday, January 2: No School, Winter Break
- Monday, January 5: School resumes

Conversation Starters

- ❖ What surprised you about your experiment when weighing 4 different cups of food? What was heaviest? What was lightest? Were those results what you had expected?
- ❖ What book did you read on the computer this week?
- ❖ What did you make on the computer with the Shapes software?
- ❖ What did you notice about the quilts you looked at today?
- ❖ What did you read with Mrs. Byrnes this week?
- ❖ Who won the Hunnewell election? Did the Hunnewell election results match the results of the real election?
- ❖ What did you enjoy most at the MFA? Would you like to go back as a family and see more of the exhibits?
- ❖ What did the class agree would symbolize Effort toward Excellence
- ❖ What was your contribution to the Effort towards Excellence quilt design?
- ❖ What news did Mrs. Byrnes share today?
- ❖ What is happening in Gooseberry Park? Do you think Kona will find Stumpy?

Have a great weekend,
Sarah Byrnes