



# A Note From 1-B



December 5, 2008

There seems to be some confusion about books sent home with your child. Books that come home in an envelope for your child to read to you are books that he or she has already read in school with me multiple times. I select the book that is going home, based on various skills your reader is practicing. Perhaps your child is working on a decoding strategy, which I can highlight through that text. Perhaps he or she is working on identifying and spelling a new word family, which can be found frequently in that text. Perhaps your child is working on reading the words on the page slowly without substituting, adding, or skipping words. The list goes on and on. The children are bringing the books home once they feel confident about reading to you independently. They are not meant to struggle through the text, and it may even appear as though your child has memorized the book already. That is fine. Your child is bringing the book home to show-off. Please let your child do this without worrying about the level he or she is being challenged at. Reading at home should be fun and enjoyable for everyone involved, even the new reader in the family. ☺

## **Before December vacation 1-B will....**

- Complete our study of Ghana. Students will understand:
  - How where one lives affects their life.
  - How traditions shape life in Ghana.
  - How Ghanaian children and families are similar to themselves and their families.
- Complete our Solving Story Problems unit in Mathematics.
- Continue to develop writing workshop stories, while emphasizing the importance of the conventions of writing.
- Master (be able to read and write) the first 25 sight words. Here are the words we know already:
  - a        in        of        that    you
  - and    is        the    to
- Participate in Word Study Groups, solidifying student use (reading and written) of short vowel sounds, consonant digraphs, and blends.
- Use just right books to practice reading for meaning, develop and solidify foundation skills, and read with voice and expression.

## **Announcements**

- The weather is getting cooler and is very inconsistent. It seems that one day it is 45 degrees while the next it is 25 degrees. Please be aware that the children will go outdoors for recess unless the temperature is below 20 degrees. Hats, mittens and warm winter coats will make recess much more enjoyable for your child. Remember, they can always take off a layer if they are too hot but they cannot make a layer appear when they are cold! Thank you!
- If your child will be out due to a planned absence, please let me know ahead of time.

### **Save The Date**

- 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**

- ❖ Where is Ghana? What region would you like to visit in Ghana, the Coastal Plains, the Rain Forest, or the Savanna? Why?
- ❖ Let's look at a map and find the seven continents together!
- ❖ What are the three things that make your skin the color it is?
  - ✓ Your birth parents and ancestors
  - ✓ The sun
  - ✓ The amount of active melanin in your skin
- ❖ How would you describe the color of your skin?
- ❖ What is subtraction? Are there different strategies you can use to solve the same problem?
- ❖ What is an equation?
- ❖ Can you think of three different ways to make 6? Can you think of all the possible ways? How do you know you've thought of them all?
- ❖ What original Fairy Tales did you hear when the seventh graders came in to read to 1-B?

Enjoy the weekend,  
Sarah Byrnes