

A Note From 1-B

February 27, 2009

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a fun-filled family week. The week before vacation was wonderfully hectic! We had a great time at the aquarium and attending a Penguin Explorer class. The children were able to make meaningful connections between the nonfiction texts we have read about penguins and the live penguins at the NEA! Children also made connections to the number 100! The 100 projects were impressive. The children enjoyed working on 100-day activities in 1-C/M and 1-J! Open School was such a meaningful mid-year culmination of all the children have been working on. It was wonderful watching families come together to experience the parts of our day that shape your children as learners. As I watched first graders share their journal work, it reminded me that the experience your first grader is having is different than you or I did in elementary school. Journals allow your children to record their thoughts about a topic before we ever talk as a whole group and explore it more in depth. As we study a topic, journals help children explore information they learn and experiment with new ideas. Finally, these journals allow children to see for themselves the progress they have made and all they have learned about a new topic. On the 100th day we celebrated all we have learned. Children also thought about what they still want to learn. It is my hope that your children are learning to voice questions they have as readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists. Asking questions will enable your children to get the most out of their learning and stretch their thinking to a place where they are constantly learning more. Thank you for giving your child the spotlight at Open School, letting them show you what they do each day, and your continued support of the classroom!

Announcements

- If you have not returned the Parent Comment Form included with your child's progress report, please do so as soon as possible.
- Tuesday, March 3, you're invited to observe in action during Physical Education from 2:15-3:00 in the gymnasium.
- Friday, March 27, you're invited to a special Math Morning in 1-B from 8:45 to 9:15.
- Please complete and return the conference sign-up form.

Conversation Starters

- ❖ What combinations of 10 do you know?
- ❖ Can you think of a way to make 10 with three addends?
- ❖ What was your favorite part of the aquarium?
- ❖ What is molting? What is preening? What are some other things penguins do?
- ❖ What story did Mrs. Cunningham start this week?
- ❖ What do you think Elmo Elevator will find when he reaches Wild Island?
- ❖ Why don't ducks get wet?
- ❖ What experiment did you do to learn that?
- ❖ What is your latest writing story about? What extra details make it interesting for your reader?

Enjoy the weekend,
Sarah Byrnes