

Hello Families of 1CM!

As we approach April vacation and then the last stretch of school (WOW!), here are some updates from our classroom.

Math

We are currently working on a unit about Patterns. We are exploring patterns with color, numbers, shapes, body movements (clap, snap, tap etc.), and how a unit will repeat within a pattern. We are practicing identifying the units within a pattern by breaking a pattern apart and then using a unit to build a repeating pattern.

Next, we will be looking at increasing number patterns. An example of an increasing number pattern begins with a penny jar. The jar might start with one penny in it and every day someone would add two pennies to the jar. We would then look at the number sequence that goes with the number of pennies in the jar.

Start	1	
Day 1	3	
Day 2	5	
Day 3	7	and so forth.

Writing

We have been looking at different forms of non-fiction, including How To books, recipes and informational books. After reading a few examples and modeling how to use a planning sheet to organize ideas, everyone was asked to write a How To book. The results were fun, organized

books that explain the steps to follow to do all sorts of different things.

Then we spent some time reading a really fun book called Fairy Tale Feasts by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple. This is a collection of fairy tales with a recipe to go along with each story. We read The Magic Pot of Porridge and then everyone wrote a recipe for Perfect Porridge. There were some very interesting ingredients in the recipes!

Next, we will be exploring writing informational books about a topic familiar to each student. In the coming few weeks, it would be helpful for students to think of a topic or to that they could write about at school. Some ideas might include: dogs, dinosaurs, insects, space, frogs, reptiles, etc. We will be trying to create a very simple table of contents to organize the writing in each book.

Reading

During our conferences, there were many conversations about supporting students as readers. There are two websites that have proven to be helpful regarding reading. One is free and is www.starfall.com This is a great interactive site with many resources for readers and parents.

The other website has some free material and some material that you need to pay for. It is www.readinga-z.com

There are also many other reading and writing websites that offer support materials for parents.

Here are some suggestions for books that might be appealing to first/second graders, both to read together and

alone. As your readers get older and improve their reading skills, it is always a good idea to preview titles. There can be conflict and difficulties in the stories that some children will be sensitive to more than others. Previewing the titles will ensure you are aware of the content in the books before your children read them. The following suggestions of individual titles and series titles are generally appropriate for most readers at this age:

A to Z Mysteries

Magic tree House

Secrets of Droon

The Stories Julian Tells

Meg Mackintosh

Rainbow Fairy books

American Girl books (may be advanced historically i.e. slavery, the Depression)

The Littles

The Borrowers

Betsy-Tacy stories

Polk Street Kids

Toys Go Out

The Doll People

My Weird School

A Toad For Tuesday

Morton and Warton series

Gooney Bird Greene

Ivy and Bean series

Mercy Watson series

The Moffats series

Lady Lollipop

Geronimo Stilton

We have a new volunteer in our classroom three days per week. Her name is Dana Berens and she is a former Hunnewell student. She is now a senior in high school and is fulfilling her end of the year commitment in our class and another kindergarten in Wellesley.

Every class at Hunnewell is working on a C.A.R.E. project. The first grade has decided to thank our community workers by writing thank you notes and delivering them in the next few weeks. 1CM is writing to the Wellesley Public Library librarians to thank them for all of the hard work they put into keeping the library running and beautiful. We will be deciding on a date for writing and delivery in the next two weeks.

Thank you to everyone for coming in for conferences. We always appreciate talking to you about your children and learning more about who they are as people. We truly enjoy them all!

Questions to ask your child:

Who is Miss Berens?

What do you remember from Violet T.'s photojournal?

What do you know about bird bodies and feathers?

What do you think you will write about for your informational non-fiction writing?

What ingredients were in your recipe for Perfect Porridge?

It looks like the spring weather might actually be coming.

Enjoy!

Lynn and Lisa