



The First Grade Flash

February 16, 2007

**Cameras are due on
March 2nd with \$5**

Happy Chinese New Year!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 19-23rd-

No School for Mid-Winter Break

Mar. 9th-

Dental Day with Dr. Swanson

Mar. 20-

Solids & Liquids In-Class Field Trip

A note from Mrs. Barnes

What a fun week! Thank you so much to Caroline Donaldson and Dina Grimstead for organizing a wonderful party. Thank you also to parents who supplied many food items. I think it was a great success! In addition to our party, this week was a wonderful week of learning. Our class completed retells of great quality, finished writing fiction stories, participated in interesting experiments and showed a great deal of responsibility day after day. I am very proud of their hard work. Special recognition this week goes to many hard workers featured on our Busy Bee board including: Sydney, Carrie, Anya and Gabby for in classroom work and A.J., Meg, Michael, Joseph, Daniel, Ashley and Soo for fabulous homework. We are so proud of all you do. Enjoy your days off. **No homework except for our photo project.**

Literacy

Our class completed independent retells of Tomie dePaola's, The Art Lesson. Students were given a planner for sharing details from the story and challenged to write a quality retell on their own. We had wonderful results! Many students provided exceptional details and displayed good word choice, sentence variety and some dialogue in their retell. In addition, our guided reading groups worked through book like "The Fourth Little Pig" and "Crickwing" to develop text-to-self connections between characters and events in stories and our own lives. Students have been able to listen to these stories on tape after completing the reading of them in group. This is a big hit!

Math

Math vocabulary words: counting on, making a model, connection
We completed our math unit, Number Games and Story Problems, this week. Students were assessed based on their ability to find combinations of numbers up to 20, count by two, solve story problems involving addition and subtraction and find multiple solutions to a problem. The class has been encouraged to move from drawing a picture to represent numbers to "counting on" or "counting back". You can work on this with your child using math equations or word problems. Use addends up to 20 unless your child is comfortable going to a higher quantity.

Science

Science vocabulary: crystallize, evaporate, mold, hypothesis

Our class worked on an interesting experiment to answer the question, "What happens when you try to separate a mixture of solids and liquids?" Students were given a solid to mix with water and observe over time. We looked at the mixture after one night and after the water had evaporated from it. Students learned that separating mixtures of solids and liquids involved evaporating the liquid. They also found out that many solids dissolve in water but some do not. I think many of them found some of these mixtures to be quite disgusting in the end! (We have disposed of our moldy raisins now!)