



The First Grade Flash

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**Homework is due on
THURSDAY!
(February 8st)**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, Feb. 5th-
Mrs. Barnes out for Mtg.

Wed., Feb. 9th-
Assembly

Wed., Feb. 14th-
Valentine's Day Party

Feb. 19-23rd-
No School for Mid-Winter
Break

A note from Mrs. Barnes

We have a new bulletin board in our classroom! It is our BUSY BEE board. This board will be used for showcasing our work and spotlighting superstar student work. Based on parent feedback related to homework, I have decided to recognize student excellence and hard work on homework. For many students, knowing they will have a chance to be applauded by classmates and have their work featured will be a big motivator.

Already, our class is "buzzing" about who is on the board. This week's SUPERSTARS are A.J., Maija, Charlie and Griffin. I will also be spotlighting classroom work on a weekly basis too. Let me know what you think!

Literacy

This week our class continued fiction story writing and retelling. Many students have almost completed their story rough draft and will begin revisions next week. In addition to writing stories, we began retelling. The class read **Where the Wild Things Are** to identify characters, setting, problem, solution and story plot. We created a map for our retell and will write retells independently next week. In reading groups we focused on two aspects of reading, EXPRESSION and FLUENCY. Students worked to read sentence by sentence to increase their fluency. They learned about quotation marks and read together using expression in their voices.

Math

During math this week we increased our coin understanding, working on coin identification, counting by coins and played a game called Collect 25 cents. By week's end, students moved to playing Collect 50 cents or 75 cents. We also began playing Roll 100, a game designed to introduce students to tens groups within numbers. When students roll, they add cubes to a mat holding ten rows of ten cubes. Students discuss the number of cubes they have, how many more they need to make a row and how many more they need to make 100. In math logic, our class finished our first Sudoku puzzle collectively and began a new puzzle!

Science

During science, we added to our vocabulary by discussing **particles, mixtures, sorting** and **sifting**. Students were challenged to separate a mixture of five solid particle types using team work and a variety of screens with different sized mesh. Students talked through their strategy and got to work. Congratulations to William and Justin & A.J. and Gabby who separated their mixtures first (and with ease!).

Our class list is attached to the newsletter... If your child is planning to bring Valentine's for our party on the 14th, please make sure they have one for each student. We want to encourage our community of learners and friends to show kindness and caring toward each other.