



# The First Grade Flash

February 9, 2007

**Homework is due on  
THURSDAY! (2/15)**

**This week's Superstars:  
Ashley, Maija, Justin  
and Gabby**

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Wed., Feb. 14th-**

Valentine's Day Party (11:00)

**Fri., Feb. 16th-**

Cameras go home for Family Project

**Feb. 19-23rd-**

No School for Mid-Winter Break

## **A note from Mrs. Barnes**

Thank you for your feedback regarding our "Busy Bee" board. I wanted to share some other details about this. To encourage self-reflection and self-assessment, I will ask students to pick one piece of work each Friday to have featured on our board in addition to our "Spotlights". This work will be selected by the student with a rationale posted near it. I would like students to consider what makes their work "good", "valuable" or "important" and share it with others. Their best work might reflect creativity, figuring out something difficult, great presentation or the work they found most interesting. I am hoping this, as well as the "Spotlight," will nurture students in a variety of ways and provide them a forum for sharing with others.

## **Literacy**

This week our focus has been retelling what we've read. We have identified the five most important elements of a quality retell: character, setting, problem, solution and story plot. Our class read "My Lucky Day" and worked together to create a shared writing retell of it. Students also completed their own retell planner for this story. In addition to retelling, students worked to complete their fiction story rough drafts. We will be in the revision stages next week, with students creating their book covers in computer lab. In the next two weeks, our district writing assessment on story retelling will begin and students will have an opportunity to write retells independently.

## **Math**

Math vocabulary words: equation, addend

During math this week, our class worked to solve problems involving missing addends. Students became more familiar with identifying the question asked in a word problem and determining how to approach the problem solving. We shared multiple strategies for finding missing addends. We also made the connection between addition and subtraction as mathematical processes. In coin and currency learning, we focused on multiple ways to show a coin amount. Students were encouraged to show more than one way to make a coin amount with using only pennies.

## **Science**

Science vocabulary: mixture, absorb, dissolve, melt, evaporate

This week in Science, our class began a series of experiments designed to develop deeper understanding of solid and liquid mixtures and the ways that these mixtures can be separated or changed. Students spent a great deal of time trying to express a clear definition of the differences between dissolving, melting and evaporating. Many misconceptions were identified and many students developed clarity about these terms over the week.

DISSOLVE:When a solid breaks down in a liquid until it is completely absorbed

MELT:When a solid changes into a liquid because it is heated

EVAPORATE:When a liquid becomes a gas and is absorbed into the air