



The First Grade Flash

March 2, 2007

Homework is due:

3/9/07

Happy Birthday AJ!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mar. 9th-

Dental Day with Dr. Swanson

Mar. 20-

Solids & Liquids In-Class Field Trip

A note from Mrs. Barnes

I hope everyone had a great break. I got to spend time on the east coast at a conference and celebrate my birthday by sleeping in! It was great to see each of your children this week. Our class also got to welcome Jerod Keane! It has already been a busy week, including our late start on Thursday. I hope you will help me to get our class back into the school routine (and the homework routine) this weekend and next week. Homework packets are going home as usual on Friday and are due on Thursday. Also, we have fun upcoming events listed above, so keep them in mind. The Solids and Liquids Workshops will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to apply the science understanding they have developed throughout this unit. Lastly, on March 30th I will be out of the classroom for reading assessments. I will pull students one at a time for assessments to inform instruction in literacy. Have a good weekend!

Literacy

This week in literacy our class worked on an independent retell of Kevin Henke's book Kitten's First Full Moon for the district writing assessment. Students demonstrated their ability to plan, write, revise and edit a fiction retell without assistance. During guided reading, our groups have been working to increase our comprehension of text through verbal retells, text-to-self connections and discussions. In the next week, students will complete their fiction story writing and begin their illustrations for their first published book in first grade.

Math

Math vocabulary words: line plot, data, pace, range

Our class began the math unit, From Paces to Feet this week. This unit focuses on measurement, data collection and representation. The class learned the difference between a giant step, a baby step and a pace. We collected classroom data and represented our results in a line plot. Line plots were used to determine range, holes and outliers in the data. We will begin measurement using standard measure next week. For our math homework, students will use their understanding of different types of steps to collect some data at home.

Science

Science vocabulary: dissolve, matter, layer, viscous

This week we focused on liquid mixtures, mixing a variety of liquids with a beaker of water. In small groups, students observed their mixtures before and after shaking them. Each group also observed their mixtures after a night. In addition, our class worked to decide whether toothpaste is a solid or a liquid. Some students used the evidence that toothpaste takes the shape of its container to decide it is a liquid. Other students used the evidence that toothpaste does not remain level in a container to prove it is a solid. We are waiting to see the results of our toothpaste and water mixtures overnight, which may offer more evidence for our class.

Report cards will go home at the end of March. If you would like to check in about your child's progress in the next month or two, please let me know.