



# The First Grade Flash

March 9, 2007

**Homework is due:**  
**3/16/07**

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**Mar. 20-**

Solids & Liquids In-Class Field Trip  
(Please bring \$6 by 3/16)

Mar. 30-

Report Cards Mailed  
Reading Assessment Testing

## A note from Mrs. Barnes

Thanks for supporting your children in their picture taking endeavors. I am excited and curious to see what pictures they took on the cameras. As report card time approaches, I wanted to let you know that I am always available (or almost always) for conferencing when needed. If you are unsure about your progress, the reports going home at the end of March will likely help. If you would feel more comfortable meeting sooner, please email me. I take very seriously your child's progress in first grade, and I am always glad to talk about that with you. Similarly, our literacy volunteering time slots continue to be Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. from 10:25-11:00. If you would like to join us, even for one day during that time, you are welcome. The students enjoy reading with you and your presence allows me to work with my small reading groups more effectively. Thanks again for all you do.

Have a nice weekend.

## Literacy

Our class began Socratic Seminars and using the Junior Great Books series for developing an enlarged understanding of the texts we read. As a class, we are working to develop our own questions and perspective about text and to share those ideas in a conversation atmosphere. This week your child participated in a seminar focusing on one interpretive question related to a story read. These discussions are meant to increase the students' depth of understanding about stories, but also provide a place to share the variety of perspectives we each have. Ask your child about the Happy Lion!

## Math

**Math vocabulary words: most common, hole, cluster, interpret**

In math this week, we worked to improve our understanding of line plots, to interpret data effectively, and to answer questions requiring comparisons in data. Students spent many math periods as "teachers" sharing their strategies for solving math questions about line plots. They have become very adept at creating their own line plots and interpreting them. This week's homework includes a line plot and I have copied an example from our class work on the back of the homework for your reference. I am sure you will be impressed with all your child can do!

## Science

**Science vocabulary: experiment, test, hypothesis**

Through our experimenting, the class was able to develop a deeper understanding of the ways to determine the state of matter. Students developed experiments for testing toothpaste, jelly, peanut butter and oobleck (A Dr. Seuss creation!). The class can explain the differences between solids and liquids like experts and can use that knowledge to determine the state of matter when things are presented to them. We will be wrapping up our unit on during the next week and reviewing for our science assessment. A high point of the coming two weeks will be our Rick Hartman Toy Workshop in the classroom on March 20th. Students will enjoy putting their science understanding to work in creation of toys!