

Simpson News

January 11, 2011

Upcoming Events

1/16 - No School

1/18 - Late Opening

2/2 - Field Trip

**Several volunteer opportunities will be coming soon...I'll let you know when I post a sign-up sheet outside the classroom.

**As your family does "spring cleaning", please consider donating your gently used books to our classroom! We are such great readers that I'm having a hard time keeping enough books around to satisfy our needs!

Curriculum Highlights

Writing

Our Personal Narratives are published and up on the bulletin board outside our classroom. Stop by and see them before or after school! This month (and continuing into February), we will be working on letter writing. We started the week learning the parts of a letter and writing a letter to my mom, who lives in Texas. We sent her a picture of the class along with the letter. She loved it and wrote back to us! I am in the process of getting a pen pal class for us to exchange letters with this year. I have a friend who teaches 2nd grade in another PPS school. What fun to write letters back and forth and then possibly meet for a picnic in June!

Math

As I mentioned to many of you at conferences, we are focusing on addition and subtraction facts. We have begun to learn some strategies to help us remember those facts and be able to produce answers quickly. Playing "Around the World" has become a favorite activity of the class. Our Bridges curriculum is taking us through a unit on addition, subtraction and probability. The students really enjoy playing the games in Workplaces and I enjoy watching them learn some great skills in the process.

Reading

As we begin Unit 3 in our Scott Foresman curriculum, I am starting a teaching strategy that helps foster literacy independence. It is called The Daily 5. I learned about this process several years ago while taking a class at Concordia. Many teachers in the Portland area are currently using The Daily 5 to supplement their reading curriculum. We will do The Daily 5 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while continuing Book Clubs and Vocabulary/Phonics Groups on Tuesday and Thursday. Our Scott Foresman curriculum will be taught throughout the day as we do The Daily 5. Ask your child what The Daily 5 activities are!

Science

Our study of habitats continues to be the main focus in Science. Just this week, we have begun creating a mural that will go up on the wall in our classroom displaying the wonderful "Ocean Creatures" that your little creatures created! ;) We will soon begin to do some research to go along with our creature.

Art

Welcome to our new Art teacher, Brooke Date! We are fortunate to have her and the students love going to art class!

Miscellaneous

No Reading Logs will be sent home for the remainder of the year. Please continue reading with your child for 15 minutes at least 5 times a week!

I'd love to hear your opinion of the new differentiated spelling lists.

Don't forget that homework is due on Friday! Spelling Tests are now on Fridays.

A bit thanks to Chris Santella for creating a song with our class!