

# 1J News

January 16, 2009

Archie was our 1J All Star this week.

**Today is the 83rd day of first grade.**

Pajama Day was such a hit at Hunnewell School! I hope it inspired you to donate to the Hunnewell Helps pajama (and underwear) drive.

Next Thursday, January 22, we will be "Undercover Reading" in 1J. Your child is invited to bring a small flashlight and blanket to school - we will turn off the lights and read "undercover".

In anticipation of the historical Presidential Inauguration next week, we read our Weekly Reader entitled "Meet Our New President". We talked about the Obama family and the important work and decisions the new president has before him. The children wrote letters to President Obama, Mrs. Obama, or Sasha and Malia, which we posted on our bulletin board. These are letters of congratulations, support, and curiosity. We will send the letters to the White House in a couple weeks.

This week we also spent time discussing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work and achievements. We discussed the importance of solving problems peacefully (a perfect tie-in to our current Open Circle lessons), whether they are of international or first grade relevance. Did you know there are plans in place for a 4-acre memorial to be built on the National Mall to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., the "peaceful and nonviolent warrior"?

We have completed our study of Ghana. I hope you have had a chance to look at the curriculum resources on the Wellesley Public Schools web site to help share in your child's appreciation of this beautiful country.

Our next science unit will be the study of penguins. Not only will

the children in 1J be learning about penguins, but they will also be making them! If you are able to come in on Tuesday, February 2, from 1:30-3:00, to help make penguins, please let me know. As always, no experience needed - just the willingness to get your hands "gluey"!

On Friday, February 13, we will trade Valentine cards. Please make sure your child has a card for each classmate (see the class list at the end of this letter) - no treats, please!

There is a new Guest Reader sign up sheet posted outside the classroom door. Please stop by to sign up or let me know when you can come in and I will sign you up. If Wednesday at 8:45am does not work, please let me know and we will find a more convenient time.

On all the Fridays through winter the children in 1J may wear their slippers in school. They should wear boots or shoes to school and pack their slippers in their backpacks.

Please send appropriate outdoor play clothes with your child everyday. We go out for recess most days and the children need coats, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants. **You might want to tuck dry pairs of mittens and socks into your child's backpack to use when the snow gets the better of him or her! PLEASE LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S OUTDOOR CLOTHING WITH HIS OR HER NAME.**

### Looking Ahead

Monday, January 19 - No school - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 22 - Undercover reading in 1J

Tuesday, February 2 - Penguin making 1:30-3:00 Volunteers needed!!

Friday, February 6 - Progress reports sent home

Wednesday, February 11 - Family Open School Night

Friday, February 13 - Field trip to New England Aquarium

Friday, February 13 - 1J Valentine card exchange

Friday, February 13 - School dismissed at 3:05 for February vacation

Monday, February 23 - Back to school!

Friday, April 10 - No school - Good Friday

Friday, April 17 - School dismissed at 3:05 for April vacation

Monday, April 27 - Back to school!

Monday, May 25 - No school - Memorial Day

Lori

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1J

Lee

Melchor

Clarence

Lauren

Amica

Allison

Courtney

Dillon

Jack

Brendan

Teddy

Elizabeth

Julia Murray

James

Archie

Lindsey

Julia Sneddon

Maggie

Ryan

Lily