

1J News

January 9, 2009

Happy New Year!!

Today is the 78th day of first grade.

It is great to be back at school after a restful vacation. Your children had many stories to tell about their adventures and are ready to get back to work. This is an amazing time in first grade; the children grow and mature a great deal. They stand taller and are more confident.

Thank you to all who helped with The Singing Drum performance before vacation, and to our appreciative audience. The children enjoyed making the costumes, props, and scenery and then performing for all of you. We are now using the Wellesley Public Schools web site to do a scavenger hunt of items found in Ghana. To access this web site, please follow these directions: Wellesley Public Schools web site, then schools, then elementary, then Hunnewell, then curriculum resources, then grade one, then A Closer Look At Ghana.

We have finished Ragweed and have started reading Poppy. Both books were written by Avi and are about the adventures of mice families. The children and I love our read-aloud time - it is a quiet time after lunch when we review what we have read, read a chapter or two, and then talk about what we read and predict what will happen in the story.

The children are working on personal narratives during our Writer's Workshop time. The writing is followed by a mini-lesson focusing on a particular skill needed when writing. During the lesson the

children are encouraged to use that skill, along with the others taught earlier. We will be asking for volunteers to come in to type the stories in early February. Stay tuned for dates and times.

We have begun a new math unit and will be sorting objects and information, posing questions, collecting data, and making representations of the data we collect.

Have you heard about our Daily 5? During this time in our school day the children read to themselves, read with me in a guided reading group, and read with a buddy. They also practice their writing and spelling skills, and use the listening center and computer. The tone of the classroom during Daily 5 is studious and the engagement is high. It is one of our favorite times of the day.

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.

Next Friday and 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.

This week Teah made a transition from Hunnewell to a new school in Boston. The children made her good bye cards. We will miss her and wish her good luck in her new school!

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

Friday, February 6 - Progress reports sent home

Wednesday, February 11 - Family Open School Night

Friday, February 13 - Field trip to New England Aquarium - more information to follow

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

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