

1J News

November 21, 2008

Today is the 55th day of first grade.

This week the Hunnewell School community gathered for a very important assembly. We have all been part of creating a CARE quilt and on Monday we were able to see each square be added to the quilt to create an explosion of creative ideas. Our class made a quilt square representing the C in CARE - community. Our theme was that we all work together at Hunnewell School and when one succeeds we all succeed - One For All and All For One. The quilt is in the process of being sewn and will be displayed in the gym when it is complete.

To help the children increase their independence, a new component has been introduced into our school day - The Daily 5. During this time, the children have learned to independently work on literacy activities. They spend time reading alone, with a buddy, or with me. They also spend time writing independently, listening to recorded stories or working on the computer. Presently we have one tape recorder with two headphones. Ideally, each child should be able to listen to recorded stories by him or herself, so 1J would really appreciate donations of any used portable tape recorders, cd players and headphones. Please send them to school and we will put them to immediate use. Thank you so much for your support.

We have begun our study of birds. The children have learned about their habitats, their characteristics, and their feathers. They know the difference between the body feathers and down feathers and they know why an animal might be camouflaged.

Our class had a discussion this week about snacks and we agreed that our school snacks should be healthy and filling. Although it was hard to do, we also agreed that candy should not be a part of school snacks. Please talk with your child about what he or she would like to

have for snack and encourage healthy eating.

Yes, winter has arrived, so please make sure your child comes to school ready to play outside twice a day, weather permitting. Items that your child needs are: a warm coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and snow pants and boots, when appropriate. If you saw the lost and found items on display this week, you know the importance of labeling each item your child brings to school.

Just a reminder that the children need to be at school when the bell rings at 8:30am. Arriving even a few minutes late may make it more difficult for your child to transition into the school day.

Thank you so much for your support with your child's reading log. It is so interesting to see what books your child is enjoying reading and so heart warming to see how many family members are involved in nightly reading. Instilling a life long love of reading is one of the greatest gifts you will ever give your child.

Looking Ahead

Thursday & Friday, November 27 & 28 - No school - Happy Thanksgiving

Monday, December 1 - No school - Professional Day

Tuesday, December 2 - Friday, December 5 - Hunnewell Book Fair

Monday, December 15 - Construction workshop for Ghanaian play - Parent volunteers will be needed - more information will follow after Thanksgiving break

Friday, December 19 - Ghanaian performance "The Singing Drum" 10:30-11:00 in the music room - families invited

Tuesday, December 23 - School dismissed at 3:05 for December vacation

Monday, January 5, 2009 - Happy New Year! Back to school!!

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

Wednesday, February 11 - Family Open School Night

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