

Happy Friday, Kinder Families!

100th Day of School A reminder that all kindergarten classes will be dressing up in their best 100-year old attire on this upcoming Tuesday, January 30th. We will be doing some fun 100th day activities in the morning with our 5th grade buddies, as well as 100th day-themed centers in the afternoon :)

Arctic Animal Unit We have begun our individual animal lessons, first learning about polar bears, and beginning to talk about harp seals. We are sharing many discussions about the relationship between predator and prey, characteristics unique to different animal species, and adaptations that animals make to survive in a particular climate. I encourage you to ask your child some facts they have learned so far- some fascinating information!!!

Box Tops Thank you so much for sending these in! A reminder that the next collection day is February 21st, so please feel free to continue sending these in!

January Homework Beginning next week, please feel free to send in homework January packets, if you would like! Again, and as I stress in class, although I do not wish for this to become busy work for your child, I would like for the Kinders to use this as an opportunity to be "careful workers". Something we value at school is doing our very best work *always*, no matter what the task at hand is. Thank you for your support in this at home! February packets will be sent home on Thursday, February 1st.

MAP Testing I just wanted to inform you that as of this week, our class has taken both the reading and math portions of the K-2 MAP test. We will take these again in the spring. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding testing!

Picture Day I have yet to receive any order forms back from parents, so I just thought I'd send another reminder. This second round of photos will be for a class shot that will be included in the school yearbook and is available for your purchase as well, if you would like. You may also choose to have your child photographed individually again, however, this will only be if you choose to do so on your form. We will be taking pictures on Jan. 31st at 9:35am.

Popcorn Words Thank you for your patience with me as I try and stay on top of these! I tend to have kiddos return them in waves, and many days, it can be a challenging to find a time to sit one-on-one with your child to go through these. As your child makes their way through lists of words, please do me a favor and keep tested words at home. Many times, words come un-clipped and we have to sort numerous word pools before being able to test them on the nine individual words they are on. Thank you for your help with this!

Sight Words A friendly reminder- when you see new sight words in our weekly letters, I encourage you to ask your child about the sight words they have learned recently. As an extra bonus, I would encourage you to be on the look-out for these words in books and environmental print (in menus, on road signs, in magazines, etc.), and asking your child to spell and use the words in a sentence.

The "tricky" sight words we focused on this week *are play, with, you, and me*. In addition to all of the work you have been spending at home with your children on popcorn words, combined with the reading skills we have learned and practiced at school over the course of the year so far, this week, there were many words that we realized we already knew and were ready to add to Carl, our sight word caterpillar. These included *at, an, it, will, in, and had*. As we discuss frequently in class, such words deem less attention and practice at this point for us because we can "sound" them out. Other words that are not spelled as phonetically aligned, we spend more time in regards to repetition and rote memorization. However, as these words are on the required district word list, we are still specifically identifying them all together. Once words are added to Carl, as well as our class word wall, your children know that they are expected to use and correctly spell these words in our writing.

Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 30th- 100th Day of School
- Jan. 31st- Picture Day (9:35am)
- Feb. 1st- Mother/Son Event
- Feb. 5-6, 8- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 9th- No School
- Feb. 13th-15th- Have a Heart Sale (8:15-8:35am)
- Feb. 14th- Valentine's Day Party (3:00-3:30pm)
- Feb. 19th- No School (President's Day)
- Feb. 20th- No School (Staff Professional Learning)
- Feb. 23rd- Daddy/Daughter Dance

January Birthdays

- Anna (half-birthday)- Jan. 2nd
- Grady- Jan. 13th
- Zayne- Jan. 21st
- Scarlett- Jan. 29th

Have a great weekend!

Warmly,

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