

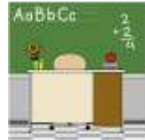


FIRST GRADE Classroom News

jewish community
day school of rhode island

December 21, 2007
Michelle Cicchitelli

From the Teacher's Desk



Can you believe it is already time for our winter break? This year is surely going fast. I know that schedules are in the process of changing in terms of your after school plans. I cannot stress to you enough how important it is that you let me know of your child's dismissal plans. Please, please, please let me know of schedule changes so I know where to dismiss your child. In addition, when dropping your child off for school, please do not accompany him/her to the classroom. It is making the transition from home to school harder for some students, especially when it is after 8:00.

Again, the cold weather is here! Please make sure to send your child to school with coats, hats, gloves, etc. They will still be going outside for recess on most days. If you send your child in with boots, please also remember to send sneakers to change into.

Have a great vacation with your family!

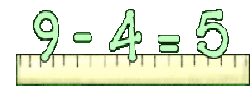
Language Arts



We have begun our mid-year assessment and will continue with them after vacation. Remember to work with your child on sight words. If you need a new list of words, please let me know. We have been very busy learning about words. The children looked at words they knew and how they could help you know new words. For example, if you know in, it helps you know pin. Practice this skill with your child. We have also started to look at vowel sounds and letter clusters in words. We will get into more detail with these sounds after the break when we start our spelling program. We have also learned

What a synonyms are (words that mean almost the same). Ask your child to tell you some. In handwriting, we have been working on lowercase letters.

Math



We have continued in our unit on geometry and have explored fair shares and fractions. The children looked at shapes to decipher between $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$. We also learned how to split objects into these fractions. You could practice this skill with your child using different food items. We have also learned about probability. Using different manipulatives, the children learned how to figure out if it is more likely for an event to occur. They also got to work in groups on a probability game. Ask your child to tell you about it. These skills conclude our unit.

Science



We have been working on a unit on magnetism. The children learned what a magnet is and what it means to be magnetic. They also learned that a magnet has two poles and how they could affect the magnets from attracting or repelling. The children had the opportunity to participate in different experiments with magnets. First, they made predications about the magnetism of different objects and then tested their hypotheses. Then they tested the strength of different magnets. Ask your child to tell you about these experiments.

Open Circle



We continue to work on when it is important to tell an adult about behaviors that we see our friends participating in. We discussed how to deal with annoying behaviors and how to handle teasing. We will continue to discuss this after break.