

To: Parents of First Graders
From: Mrs. Gnepper
Date: February 7, 2008

The 2nd half of the school is well underway and we are working very hard, despite the weather delays, at learning new skills and concepts!

Reading For the remainder of the year, we will be working on long vowel sounds, comprehension skills and using "reading strategies" to figure out unknown words. Recently the children have been introduced to fiction/nonfiction, sequence of events in a story, recognition of a rhyming pattern and using picture details to aid in understanding.

Remember that reading the AR (Accelerated Reader) book with the round blue sticker in the upper right hand corner is homework every night, even though it is not written in the planner. This is part of the Reading grade and children are expected to take at least 1 test per week.

March is the last month for **Book-It**. Thank you for encouraging participation in this program and all you do to help your 1st grader love books!

Math Geometry has been our focus recently. We have been learning to identify and describe the properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures. Upcoming topics will include telling time, counting money and place value.

Please continue to practice flashcards and to initial the planner so that credit can be given for doing this very important homework. Addition and subtraction facts to 12 are expected to be mastered by 2nd grade. We will continue to work on them in school as well.

Health February is National Dental Health Month. We will be learning the basics of good dental hygiene with free materials from the Proctor & Gamble Crest First Grade School Program. Check out great information on the website: pgschoolprograms.com, which includes animated brushing and flossing demonstrations!

Reminders Children must be ready for school by the 8:00 bell. They may be marked tardy if they are not in their seats, unpacked and ready for the school day by 8:00. For those that want breakfast, this is especially important since breakfast ends at 8:20. Coming into the classroom right at the bell often causes a delay for us in beginning our school day. A final note concerning homework: 1st graders need adult guidance to learn this responsibility and should not be expected to handle this totally on their own. It is very difficult to make school and homework a priority when there are so many other activities competing for your attention and energy. Your efforts in this area are so worthwhile! Don't forget lots of praise! You will be rewarded with a responsible child growing and learning each day! Thanks for being such great role models!

Valentines Day We will have a Valentine party on Thursday, February 14. Valentines may be brought to school to pass out. Decorated boxes for valentines are optional. We will not be making them in school, but the children may make them at home to bring on Thursday if they wish!