

Friday, January 22, 2010

Dear Parents:

Today is the last day of our thematic unit about Kenya. We have learned a lot about the people, animals and places of Kenya. We have heard African stories and music. The Read Aloud book was Who's In Rabbit's House? The Barbara Saul book was My Blanket and the Science Link Book was I Am Going To Kenya. We also read Jan Brett's book Honey, Honey, Lion!

The letter of the week was "Ff" and the AlphaFriend who helped us with the name, shape and sound of the letter "Ff" was Fifi Fish. We wrote the letter, made a list of things that start with the "Ff" and played lots of games to learn about "Ff". Have your child tell you 5 things that start with letter "Ff".

Today was a very busy day. It was "Blanket Day". Each child who brought their favorite blanket to school practiced oral language skills by sharing about their blanket in front of the class. We will be making another class book. Your child drew a picture of his/her blanket and wrote a story that had a topic sentence, three supporting detail sentences and a summary sentence. I took pictures of your child and his/her blanket to put on his/her page of the class book.

With the longer day, we have been able to spend more time learning how to read. I have been using literacy materials from Starfall.com with the students in class. We are going to use the first five stories from the section Learning To Read to teach the students their short vowel sounds. We met the character Zac the rat and read a book about him. We used the computer to play games that used the -at and -an sounds to make words. We have done many activity pages in class to practice writing words with the short a sound. The children put together a puzzle that had many short a words pictured and written. They then used the puzzle picture to reference in writing short a words. We read little books about Zac the Rat together and the children took them home to add to their personal libraries.

During the second week back from Winter Break we met Peg the Hen. She taught the children about the short e sound. We read her story in books and on the computer, played games, put together puzzles, wrote short e words and completed many activity pages. We also did the same this week for Tin Man who taught us about the short l sound in his book, The Big Hit. During the coming weeks we will meet Mox the Fox, and Gus the Duck.

Next week we will be doing a short, one-week, unit about water. We will learn about the different states of water, the water cycle and we will make ice castles next Friday.