

Friday, January 25, 2008

Dear Parents:

We are taking a weeklong break from our Kenya unit as I have been conducting formal assessments of the students. Yesterday was "Half-way Day", the 90<sup>th</sup> day of school. We are now halfway done with kindergarten! Today is the end of the second quarter of school. Parent/teacher report card conferences are scheduled for the week of February 4-8 with make-ups on Wednesday, February 13. Look for the scheduling note to come home soon. When you receive the note check your calendar. If you CAN come at the scheduled time please sign and return the form to school. If you CANNOT attend at the scheduled time, please call the office to reschedule. I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

Next week, our Barbara Saul book is, My Blanket. After we read the book in class, we would like to celebrate by hosting a "Blanket Day" in our room. Students will be allowed to bring one of their favorite blankets to school on Friday, February 1. The children will write about their blanket and I will take pictures of each child with his/her blanket. We will use these to create a class book.

Thursday, February 7 is the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We call it "Hundreds Day". It is a wonderful opportunity to have your child practice counting. If you wish, you and your child can create a collection of 100 items (popcorn, pasta, pennies, jelly beans, stickers, etc.) to bring to school on "Hundreds Day" to share with the class. Your child will be learning how to write the numbers from 1 - 100 on grid paper.

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 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. During the coming weeks we will meet the Tin Man, Mox the Fox, and Gus the Duck.