

Friday, January 29, 2010

Dear Parents:

Wednesday was "Half-way Day", the 90th day of school. We are now halfway done with kindergarten! Wednesday, February 10 is the 100th 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.

This week we have been doing two units to move the students further towards meeting the California state standards in science and social science. We have been working hard to learn what a symbol is (something that stands for something else). Then we have learned some of the symbols for the United States of America such as: the US flag, the Statue of Liberty, the bald eagle, and the Liberty Bell. We have also been learning the symbols for the state of California: the Bear Flag, the golden poppy, the quail, and the redwood tree. See how many of these symbols your child can tell you.

In science, we have been learning about water and how it can change. They have learned that water is a liquid and when it freezes it becomes a solid. They also learned that when ice (a solid) is warmed, it melts back into water (a liquid). We also learned about the water cycle.

I have been asked about Valentine's Day. We will celebrate it on Friday, February 12. Each student will have a bag to receive valentines. His/her name will be written on the outside in BIG letters. If your child wishes to exchange Valentines, I ask that he/she bring one for each of the other students in our class. There are two ways to do this; first, your child could write each classmate's name on the valentine, or by far the easiest, they could just sign each valentine but not put a name on the envelope. These "generic" valentines could then just be dropped into each classmate's bag thus avoiding the confusion of having to read each name and making sure it got into the correct bag.

Next week, we will be starting a new thematic unit: Look Up! Exploring Space. This is a fun and exciting unit. Be sure to ask your child every day what the theme for the day was. Every day I will be teaching a different concept. It might be about the sun, planets, moon or just the difference between day and night. The centers are also tied into the theme. We will have a space shuttle in the dramatic play center for the children to "fly" into space. They will operate robot arms, color, assemble space puzzles, create art and have many other experiences related to space.