

Friday, February 26, 2010

Dear Parents:

We have finished the unit Look Up: Exploring Space. The Read Aloud book was Happy Birthday, Moon. The Science Link Book was What Is In Space? The big and little book was What Do You See?. Our Alphafriend this week was Queenie Queen who helped us to learn about the sound the letter "Qq" makes.

This has been a break-through week for the children's writing. I have been very impressed with their writing, especially in their journal pages. It is fun to see them put together all the strategies that I have been teaching them to spell out words and write sentences with punctuation! Your child should have brought his/her writing journal home today as we are now finished with the unit of study about Space. Please take some time to go through the journal with your child. You can read the prompt at the top of the page aloud and have your child read what they wrote to you. Remember that most students are writing phonetically and often forget to put spaces between their words. This journal sharing can be a great springboard to a discussion with you child about what he or she is learning at school and how proud you are of them!

I started a new KinderRoots reading program last week and we are off to a great start! A puppet, named Alphie, now visits our class each day and helps the children to learn the letter/sound of the week. He also helps them learn the skills they need to become readers. On Monday of each week I will send home the KinderRoots book for the week. Last week's book was Matt. This week's book was Dogs. Every night, please take time to listen to your child read the book to you. Each day two students are selected to read. He/she will practice at home to read in front of the class on the next day of school. When he/she has done this, he/she will bring home a certificate celebrating his/her accomplishment.

Earlier this year, your child learned the four basic shapes: square, circle, triangle and rectangle. In mathematics, we have been studying the 3-D figures: cube, cone, sphere and cylinder. Have your child look for objects in your house that are cubes, and then have him/her locate cones, then spheres and finally, look for cylinders.

The second trimester of school ends next Friday, March 5. Next week, I will be conducting formal assessments of student progress. It is important that the children get plenty of sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast. Parent/teacher conferences will begin on Monday, March 15 and run through on Friday, March 19. There will also be conferences on Wednesday, March 24. I am looking forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress.