

Friday, December 18, 2009

Dear Parents:

We have finished our three-week thematic unit about dinosaurs. You might enjoy having them "read" from their Dinosaur writing journal that came home today. Our Read Aloud book was Giant Dinosaurs and our theme link book was Danny And The Dinosaur. The Kinder Friends book was Dinosaur Bones. Our big and little book this week; My Solid Figures Book. In our Handwriting Without Tears program, we have been working on writing lowercase letters of the alphabet.

Callie Cat was our new Alpha Friend this week. Our letter of the week was "Cc" making the hard /k/ sound. I sent home a duplicate of the folded-page booklet that has Callie Cat on the front and back and a picture that has many objects that start with the letter c. It also goes along with the song we have learned. The lyrics of the song are on the back or you can listen to the song on our class web page. Your child should be able to read and spell three vowel-consonant-vowel words with short a as the vowel in the middle such as man, cat, hat, ran, etc. Our phonics library book was Cat Sat. Your child should be able to sound out and read the words in this book. This week was the last of the word and picture books. Today I sent home the last book, I Like To (Read).

While I am on the subject of books, I would like to encourage you to make time to read to and with your child during the two weeks of Winter Break. This will help to maintain the skills that they have been developing. I have sent home three (3) Reading Logs. Please take the time to have your child fill them out as you read together and return two (2) of them when you return in January. Reading together is one of the best gifts you can give your child. This might be a wonderful time to visit the Humboldt County Library together to select some books to read.

Starting in January we will begin dismissing kindergarten classes at the same time as the students in grades 1-3. So, on Monday, January 4, instead of picking up your child at 1:20 P.M., you will pick him/her up at 2:20 PM. BUT please remember that every Wednesday is a minimum day. Previously, that did not impact the kindergarten classes but starting in January, kindergarten students will be dismissed at 1:30 along with the entire school. Please make a note on your calendar that every Wednesday is a minimum day with early dismissal.

When we return in January, the next thematic unit will be Jambo: Hello Kenya! We will be studying about the country of Kenya in Africa. If you have been to Africa or know someone who has been there, please see if they would be willing to share their experiences with our students.