

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MRS. ABBOTT'S KINDERGARTEN

February 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

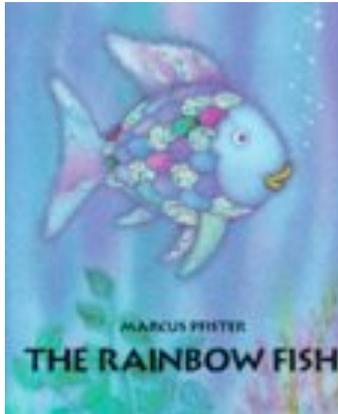
During the month of January
We learned about winter.
The children enjoyed the
snow we had. We are now
ready for the beach (despite
the blizzard)!



Next week we will begin a unit on the ocean and ocean animals. We will learn about the characteristics of the ocean and ocean animals. We will learn about whales, sharks, lobsters, crabs, starfish, octopus, dolphins as well as other animals of the ocean. Kindergarten children love non-fiction and will have a lot to tell you during this unit.

The students will work with many ocean related fiction books during this unit. Our focus books in shared reading in the upcoming weeks will be "Swimmy", "The Rainbow Fish" and "A House for Hermit Crab". Extension activities will include making a rainbow fish using sequins,

sponge painting swimmy and handprint crabs. We will complete word and sentence building activities related to these books.



I am so very proud of the children's writing! They have really made progress and are beginning to have confidence in their ability to write sentences phonetically. I'm always forgetting things so the children need to write notes for me. Ask your child to write a list for you. Please stop in to read their writing samples in the hall.



On February 7th we will celebrate the 100th day of school! It will be a fun-filled day of hands-on activities, games, books and tasty treats. I am asking each child to bring two bags with 100 things in

each bag. One bag should have 100 food items that we could use in a 100 trail mix as a celebration snack. This could be 100 raisins, marshmallows, M&M's, peanuts, cheerios, trix, skittles, pretzels, etc. Use your imagination and please count these with your child at home. The other bag should have 100 items that the children can use in the room as counters. We will count the items by ones and form groups to count by tens.

Our letters and sounds for the coming weeks include U, K and G.

During U week we will build words that end in -ut, -ub, -un, -ud and -up. This will be our fourth vowel. The children are doing a wonderful job in reading and writing short vowel words.

The focus during K week will be kangaroo literature. The word building will be words that end in -ick, -uck, -ank, and -unk.

Many activities will be completed related to "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" during G week. We will end the week by making and eating a goat food diorama related to the story. Word families will include words ending in -ug, -ag, -ig and -og.

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The sight words introduced will be "do, for and he".

Our Valentine's Day party will be on February 14th at 1:30 pm. The children will need to bring 20 cards to exchange with their classmates. The room parents will be contacting you if you signed up to help with this party. I have attached a list of names if your child would like to address cards. They may also sign their names and just randomly pass out if they choose to not address cards.



Students should always have an AR test book at home. If your child doesn't bring a book home please let me know. On the days that I do not have a volunteer we will not test and a book will not come home on those nights. If you would like to volunteer please let me know.

In math we are working on some very hard concepts that are introduced in kindergarten. We just finished a

chapter on counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. This week we began a study of time and money. The children will learn time to the hour and coin recognition. We will continue to practice numeral recognition above 10. Ask your child to write 28, 31, etc. Show him/her coins and ask them to tell you what the coin is. Coin combinations will be stressed in first grade so it is important that kindergartens learn to name and know the value in kindergarten. Practice is important in these new concepts for your child.

Learning to listen and stay on task is an important skill in kindergarten. Please check and sign your child's agenda. Praise your child for making great choices and encourage their growth in work and social skills.



We have some great leaders in this classroom who are using the "leader in me" language. We just finished habit four "Think Win-Win". Next week we will cover habit 5 "Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood." I also hope to



introduce habit 6 "Synergize". It's interesting to me that children with older siblings have mentioned synergy. This tells me the older students who are moving quicker through the habits are discussing this at home which is wonderful to hear.

I have attached the February book order. Please return it by February 11th.



February 18 - School
Carnival

February 21 - No School

Thank you to our many parent volunteers this month. Your help is very much appreciated in our classroom.

I ♥ Teaching

Rita Abbott