

## February Newsletter

February is a very short, but very busy month. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in school on Friday, February 14th. If your child chooses to bring in Valentines please make sure there is one for every child in the classroom. *We want to discourage candy or other treats on this day due to allergies. If the Valentines come with candy the children will be asked to take it home.* They are not allowed to eat in the classroom. Please refer to the letter sent home with class list.

In Reading, we are working on Traditional Literature/Folktales. Students will be reading different versions of familiar stories and comparing and contrasting them. We will be reviewing story elements in order to retell a story orally. Many students want to read chapter books at this time of the year. I am checking in with students often to assess whether they are able to talk about the book they are reading. Often times, this can be challenging for them. We have been practicing slowing down our reading to build better comprehension skills. Nightly reading is encouraged at home.

In math, we are starting our unit on counting money and telling time. These concepts will be practiced throughout the rest of the year. Any practice at home would be greatly appreciated. Also, we will be continuing to practice regrouping for addition and subtraction. Practicing basic facts can help students with this skill.

During Science, we are discussing the properties of matter. Students have been doing a series of tests on materials and collecting data about their properties. We have participated in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities. These activities have been a huge success with the children. The students worked in small groups to create a raft out of straws and have constructed a house that would not get blown over by a blow drier. These engineering projects were so much fun!

Finally, the Flat Stanley project has allowed us to keep up on our geography skills. We have experienced many cultures and customs through the postcards and pictures we have received so far. Our increased knowledge of landmarks will be helpful as we head back into our social studies unit on countries and continents in March. Have a safe and exciting vacation!

Kerry Ennis