

March 25, 2011

Dear Parents,

First of all I am sorry I was not able to get a letter out to you last week. I had several things going on that didn't allow me the time I normally have to write it. Sorry! Anyway, what I wanted to share from last week was what an amazing field trip we had. I was very impressed with the students and their knowledge of the different animals they saw and learned about while walking around. I will never get bored of simply going and watching the Penguins! Thank you to our chaperones for helping make it such a successful day!

Monday we had and celebrated our 4<sup>th</sup> filled jar of Caught Being Kind! I am so proud of our students! We celebrated with bringing in a pillow because they voted on RR&R (Rest, Read and Relax). Many students forgot, so I told them they could bring it in again on Friday (today).

In Readers' Workshop we have been working on how good readers' read Poems. They need to know the different types so they will know how to change their voice to add rhythm, rhyme and even counting syllables. In writers' workshop we have been working on writing poems and taking our language from boring to exciting by changing it from "tell" to "show". Example: TELL - Ms. Crane was excited. SHOW – Ms. Crane was so excited that she was acting like a little kid in a candy store. I can visualize what that would look like in my head.

In Math we have been introduced to fractions. Our students are doing a great job understanding that a fraction is part of a whole. This means it MUST be smaller than 1. I always remind them that a fraction is part of a whole,  $\frac{1}{2}$  there are 2 parts, and 1 of those parts is shaded. So far we are doing a great job!

Yesterday, was an eagle day because we were introduced to the Artist in Residence. The assembly lasted about an hour and we heard stories and saw pictures of Mark's artwork. The students were mesmerized. They came back to the room talking about it so much that I wanted to make sure you saw the letter that your child wrote to him. They are so excited to be able to be a part of this activity. After school, the teachers had a staff meeting with him and were able to see and try what the students will be doing. I can say that it will be great and we will end with a wonderful sculpture for the school!

Parent teacher conferences are coming up. I will send out a sign up sheet on Monday. There was a little confusion from the staff as to if we had a day or if it was to be done at other times. There is not a day dedicated to conferences so I will be sending a schedule with times before school, during school and after school. I will ask that you sign up for your top 3 choices and I will do my best to get you scheduled in one of those times.

Have a great weekend!

Ms. Crane