

Kindergarten News

Ms. Bitwinski's Class

January 9th

Literacy

Within the next couple of weeks, all kindergartners will be assessed on the DRA (Development Reading Assessment) to determine benchmark-reading levels. The resulting score is a combination of reading skill, fluency, and retelling (comprehension). This assessment will be administered by reading room personnel.

Students have been working in guided reading groups in our classroom since November. Class activities include word work, reading in groups, with partners and to self as well as retelling with details from the text. These are the books that your child brings home on Mondays in the literacy folder.

Be sure that your child reads his/her guided reading book daily to build fluency and confidence. This practice will advance your child's reading skills throughout the year. Hopefully you can already see progress.

Also remember to work with the star words and flash cards as well. You will begin to see carry-over in the writing activities that your child engages in.

★ This week's star word is **said**.

Library Trip

Our trip to the Booth & Dimock Library is an opportunity for your child to explore the possibilities that are available for free at our town's library. Miss Jen, the Children's Librarian, is a wonderful resource to families and children alike. If your child does not have his/her own library card, please take the time to visit and fill out the forms necessary to obtain it. It is a gift that will open up endless hours of reading pleasure for your child!

Map Skills-Flat Stanley

A bulletin board fell on Stanley. It didn't hurt him ... it just made him flat! When he got used to being only 14mm thick, Stanley enjoyed it. He did things no one else could do ... funny things ...scary things ...adventurous things! On one such adventure, Stanley traveled to California in an envelope to visit friends. This fictional account of a character named *Stanley*, is from the book, Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown.

The story begins a social studies unit on map skills in our kindergarten. Each kindergartner in our class will design his/her own *Stanley* to send off to a friend or relative for an adventure. During the next month, follow-up activities in language arts, math and geography will take place as *Flat Stanley* returns to Coventry.

This project will be introduced to students this week. Specific information for families is included with this week's newsletter.

Family Corner

In our classroom we will be studying the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. as his holiday approaches. There is no school on Monday, January 16th in observance of this holiday.

Book club orders will be submitted on Tuesday, January 17th for anyone interested in ordering. Please go to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs Our class code is **GKZ78**.

Just a reminder...we do go outdoors daily unless the temperature is too low as determined by the principal. Be sure that your child has hats and gloves or mittens for warmth.

Thank you for your cooperation in all school matters! I appreciate your continued support

