



## First Grade Newsletter February 2010



The month of February may be one of the shortest months of the school year, however it is packed with many important events. We find that this month tends to be the “take off” point of First Grade. The students skills get markedly stronger and they become self motivated learners. Watch for the leaps you will see in their Math, Reading and Writing skills.

On February 6th we will celebrate **Hundred's Day**. Since September, we have been counting the days we've been in school. It is a big deal when we finally reach the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. A variety of school wide and classroom activities are planned around the number 100 and the children are always eager to share their displays with their classmates. We put a strong effort into reviewing the concept of place value this month as we bring our numbers into the hundred's place.

You will soon be hearing a lot about **scrolling**. It is exciting to have the children reach the goal of writing their numbers from 1 to 1,000! Most scrolling takes place in the classroom, however some children may be allowed to do some of this project at home. Once a child reaches 1,000, they have their picture taken with their awards and the pictures are posted out in the hallway for everyone to see. When the entire class reaches 1,000 “the scrollers” will have a classroom party of their choice.

The children are becoming more proficient at reading. Before new reading books are distributed, we have a special lesson "focusing" on important story elements, for example, "Beginning, Middle and End", "Characters", and "Setting". A book is read orally and the children are directed to listen carefully for the story element we are focusing on. Once they have their new reading books, they are asked to apply this new concept to their books.

We will be having a small **Valentine's Day** party on February 14th. The children may bring in 14 valentines for their classmates. Please have your child sign the inside of their cards only and do not address the outside envelopes. It makes it so much easier for them to deliver their cards. This year the First Grade, along with the rest of Southbrook, will be asked to make "A Party in a Box" (see the attached paper).

The children have been doing an amazing job on their Spelling Tests. It is evident by their accomplishments how much effort you are putting into developing your child's skills. They are very proud of themselves.

### Dates to Remember

February 14th      Valentine's Day Party

February 6th      Hundreds Day

February 20th      School Vacation

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