



Mrs. Baker's Kindergarten Connection February 3, 2012

Letter/Word Work

This week, we focused on letter Ss in our handwriting books. We learned proper formation of the letter and completed several activities that reinforced the sound of Ss. We also recited the poem "Here's a Little Groundhog." "Am" and "here" became this week's power words. We hunted for "am" and "here" all week during our shared reading experiences. During our word work lessons this week, we focused on syllables. We also worked on hearing beginning and ending sounds in words.



Project Groundhog

We began our internet based Groundhog project. We brainstormed names for our groundhog and after a class vote decided upon "Rex". We will be recording the weather for the next 6 weeks to see if the Groundhog is an accurate predictor of weather.

Lately, many toys from home have been finding their way into backpacks and lunch boxes. Please have your child keep these special items at home as the children become very distracted by them during the day. Since I know the children love sharing their special items with each other, our next class goal will be to work towards earning a "Bring your favorite toy to school" day.

Writing Workshop

This week we finished up our unit on looking closely and writing like a scientist. We truly enjoyed examining fruit, vegetables, and items from nature, including shells, flowers, sticks, pine cones, rocks, and leaves. As you read your child's work, you will notice that they may have done more labeling than writing. Our focus in this unit was on the "quality" of writing rather than "quantity." We really stretched words to try to hear and then write down all of the sounds within the words. I am very proud of everyone's efforts in this unit, and I look forward to beginning our next unit, Writing Pattern Books.



Literature

We have enjoyed the following stories in Kindergarten:

Inch by Inch, Let's Measure, The Biggest Snowball Fight, Snowmen at Night, Snowmen All Year, Hey! Mr. Snowman, Franklin's Valentines, It's Groundhog Day, Alex's Lemonade Stand, Huff and Puff and Groundhog Day, Sadie and the Snowman



Upcoming Events

February is a very busy month in Kindergarten! Please be sure to note the following events:

February 6 - 100th day Project due

February 8 - 100th day of school!(weather permitting)

February 9 - Valentine's Cards and mailboxes due

February 13 - Heart - to - Heart Sing A Long in Stonybrook School Gymnasium 12:30 - 1 pm

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 17-20 - No School



Math

We have been very busy exploring the following math skills:

- ✓ Counting by 1s to 100
- ✓ Counting down from 20-0
- ✓ Counting by 5s and 10s to 100
- ✓ Estimating
- ✓ Patterning
- ✓ Standard and nonstandard measurement
- ✓ Number stories
- ✓ Tally marks
- ✓ Identifying/locating numbers on a number grid
- ✓ Writing numbers before and after

Reading Workshop

This week we enjoyed lots of activities focusing on the story "Hey, Mr. Snowman!" We read this book daily as our shared reading story. We also used individual copies to read this story on our own and with a partner. We discussed how sight words are the "glue" that hold a story together. We practiced finding our sight words in the story and then using them to help us read the rest of the story. We also practiced reading with fluency and inflection. We changed our voice when we came to words in a different font in the story and when we asked a question. We also discussed the language pattern in the book and found words and phrases that broke the pattern. To reinforce and further develop reading with expression and fluency, we concluded our week with a reader's theater production of the story. We loved bringing the story to life through our words and actions!

