

Mrs. McKenna's Kindergarten Connection



February 3, 2012

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, sea glass, sticks, pine cones, rocks, and leaves. Completing a sink or float experiment also added excitement to our classroom! 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 applaud 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: *Sammy Seal* (our shared reading big book); *It's Groundhog Day*; *Snake Supper*; *My First Chinese New Year*; *The Very Sleepy Sloth*; *White Rabbit's Color Book* (our Making Meaning book); *Brown Rabbit's Shape Book*; *The Best Thing About Valentine's Day*; *Inch by Inch*; *Birds in a Tree*

Math

We have worked on many skills this week. Please reinforce math concepts at home.

- Counting to 100
- Counting down from 20-0
- Counting by 5's and 10's to 100
- Counting by 2's to 20
- Estimating
- Standard and nonstandard measurement
- Patterning
- Identifying/locating numbers on number grid
- Tally marks
- Writing numbers before and after

Letter/Word Work

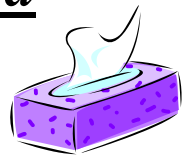
This week, we focused on letter Ss in our handwriting books. We learned proper formation of the letter and completed several activities that reinforced the sound of Ss. We also recited the poem "Sometimes." "Am" became this week's power word. We hunted for "am" all week during our shared reading experiences.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

Art in the Classroom

February is a busy month! On Thursday, we made groundhog hats and checked our shadow predictions from Wednesday. In the next few weeks, we will be making love bugs, Valentine's dogs, and Valentine's Day cards. We also can't forget that February is dental health month. We will make tooth puppets at the end of the month, and we will act out skits, pretending to be healthy and unhealthy teeth.

Donations Needed

Plastic knives
Tissues
Hand Sanitizer
Thank you!!!



Upcoming Events

Feb 6- 100th day projects due
Feb 9- Valentine's cards and mailboxes due
Feb 13- Heart to Heart Sing-a-long
Feb 14- Valentine's Day
Feb 17-20- No School

