

News from Kindergarten!

January 14, 2008

Dear Families,

Happy snowy January! This is such a wonderful time of year for kindergarten teachers. We see so much change in all our students in all areas of development - social/emotional, cognitive, and physical. All of their hard work in the first half of the school year seems to suddenly manifest itself in the quality of their work, improved social interactions and general level of maturity. I'm sure you notice these changes at home as well.

Next week we will begin our **SIPPS** (Systematic Instruction in Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, and Sight words) program. The lessons are taught twice a week. You will begin to see the SIPPS stories coming home in a special folder for your child to practice reading at home.

In **Writing Workshop** we are working on How-To books. We began by reading Walk On! A Guide for Babies of All Ages, by Marla Frazee and How to Have a Morning Meeting, by last year's kindergarten class. Together, we are writing a book called, How to Get Ready for Recess in January. Each kindergartner has brainstormed a list of things they know how to do that they could write a book about (everything from skiing or making pancakes, to yoga or licking a lollypop!) This week they will begin writing their books.

We have begun reading several different versions of the mitten story in preparation for our upcoming **Mitten Play**. As a class, we will write our own version of the mitten story, create puppets and scenery, and practice a short skit to be performed for families on January 29th at 10:45am.

You may have heard that we had a very special visitor after vacation - Corporal Sam Chandler! The kindergartners gave him a real hero's welcome and sent him back to California with an impressive book of paintings and drawings (put together by our wonderful aide Sue Foley!) He was genuinely touched by the warm reception he received.

If you would like to reread any of my old newsletters, they can be found on the Carlisle School website under the Classroom Pages section.

Have a great week! *Mrs. Chandler*