



# Early Primary Class Newsletter

February 6, 2017



## School for Community Learning

*Socially Engaged Education*



### DATES TO KNOW

### Specials Schedule-

Tuesday - Art  
Thursday- PE  
Friday - Art

### Coming Up-

- 2/9 Writing Celebration at 9am.  
(Families are welcome.)
- 2/12 3-5 pm: Spring Open House  
(Let your friends now to  
come check us out!)
- 2/20 Presidents' Day - NO  
SCHOOL

### ALL THE DIRT...

## Homework?!?

I've spoken to many of you about my homework philosophy (I'm not a fan.), but I also send optional homework home most nights. I realize this might be confusing. Here's my stance on homework.

Studies have repeatedly shown that, especially for young students, doing regular homework does not directly improve their academic performance AT ALL. Because of this fact, I do not send home mandatory homework.

However, having some homework has also been shown to help students place a level of importance on school, which is why I do send optional work home.

Please, please, PLEASE do not allow homework be a source of stress for your family. If your student is working on the same math homework or struggling while trying to read the same book for more than 10 minutes, STOP! Do the first couple problems or read the first couple pages, and then give your student a high-five. 5 minutes of practicing math facts and 5 more practicing sight words in PLENTY.

The most important homework in kindergarten and first grade is that they read with someone EVERY NIGHT. If they want to read to you, GREAT! If they don't, and they just want you to read to them, that's great too! Family silent reading time, where everyone is reading their own book while lying on the same bed? AWESOME!

Foster the LOVE of reading. The rest will come.



Our class had a great time doing various projects on the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school!

# News & Notes

## A Trip to American Village

Our class really enjoyed our visit to American Village. The art project was a lot of fun and both the students and the residents seemed to really enjoy making new friends.



## Homework Changes

## Reading & Writing Workshop

On Thursday, February 9, our class will be hosting a writing celebration where all the students can share their work from this past unit.

Please join us at 9am to see (and hear) their work writing pattern books.

Our next unit will be focusing on using authors as mentors, specifically focusing on revision and editing.

We will be hosting the Intermediate Class and showing off our reading skills as our reading celebration on Friday.

Next week, we will start working on reading

All year, students have brought home optional math homework. The students who do this homework every night have earned opportunities to have "Lunch with the Teacher".



Starting next week, there will be some changes to the optional homework. While math will still be an option,

# Nuts & Bolts

informational texts.



## Math

Flower (Kindergarten) Math is doing more work with both addition and subtraction.

Rock 'N' Roll (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) Math

there will be other options for students to complete, if you'd like to do something different from the math. Keep an eye on your orange folders and email for more details.

will be finishing up Comparing 2-digit numbers this week. Next week, we will be using models and strategies to add tens and ones.

## Science

Our classroom scientists are continuing their studies of vertebrate groups. We'll be finishing our study of birds soon and then starting to learn about fish.

## Social Studies

In social studies, we are continuing to study maps and geography, as well as studying Presidents' Day.