



# First Grade News



Room 11

Mrs.

Ashby

## \* From the Desk of Mrs. Ashby \*

### Solids, Liquids, and Gases... Oh My!

Our unit on Solids, Liquids, and Gases wrapped up this week. The first graders traveled to Mrs. O's class to learn all about the properties of gases and air. For our final solids, liquids and gases assignment, the first graders wrote a informational paragraph on what they learned about these three properties... very scientific!

### \* Valentine's Post Office \*

The last week of January we will be starting a three week unit called "Valentine's Post Office Extravaganza!". This is a HUGE highlight of the year. Please see the attached note- your child will need to bring in a couple of things for this unit. Thanks for your help!

### \* What's Happening in Writing? \*

Already half way through the year... hard to believe! Moving from creative story writing, our focus in writing will now be on paragraph structure. First graders will be working to write a clear topic sentence, three relating details, and an interesting closing sentence. We'll be practicing that in many forms, including informational paragraph writing. That also means that less time will be spent on handwriting, 100% words spelling, and conventions... students are expected to have already mastered these skills. We'll certainly mix them as needed, but it is essential that your child practice mastery of these skills in their weekly homework writing. Thanks for your help!

### \* What's Happening in Math? \*

#### \* Number Sense Skills \*

\* Keep practicing those skip counting skills by 10s, 5s, and especially 2s. While driving to school, putting on socks, as part of the bedtime routine fit in counting by twos whenever you can to solidify that skill to 120 or higher! Next week, students will be tested on this unit.

### \* Get to Know Mrs. Vanderwell! \*

It is with sadness and excitement that I leave until the end of May for maternity leave. I know your children will be in my thoughts and heart while I'm gone. Please know that I will be in close contact with Mrs. Vanderwell and although I don't anticipate checking my email too often in the beginning, I will try my best to get back to you if you do feel the need to contact me through email while I'm gone.

I am confident the first graders are in GREAT hands with Mrs. Vanderwell! Here's some fun information to help you get to know your "new teacher" while I'm gone:

\* What kind of bucket drops did your child get this week? Celebrate them- they are wonderful kids!! \* Have a great three day weekend!

. No School on Monday! \* Mrs. Ashby