

# Team 3 February Newsletter

Happy New Year! January always seems like a time when people want to have a fresh start and they do so by setting resolutions. Here at school we have the same idea. When we welcomed our students back we encouraged them and reassured them that this is their chance to start fresh, to think of the things they want to do better, and to set some goals for themselves. We know that all of them will reach their goals and have a great 2008!

So far this month has been very exciting. In about a week from now the sound of chirping will be heard throughout the team. This sound will be the example of success your child had in learning about and experiencing embryology. They are taking on the responsibility of caring for the embryos by turning the eggs three times a day to keep them from sticking to the inside. It is amazing to see how excited the kids are to learn about and work with these eggs. Quiz your child on the parts of the egg and how to take care of them. We promise you'll be impressed by the egg-sperts they've become. 😊

Besides the fun we've been having in unit studies, we have also reached a milestone with the taking of the third theme test in literacy which makes the students officially half way done with theme tests for the year. With this theme of Incredible Stories, they were tested over their ability to write important questions and to identify details that are real versus fantasy. This was a lot of fun because using questioning skills enabled the students to act like the teacher.

With one theme ending, we started our fourth one at the beginning of second semester. This theme, Animal Habitats, brings more non-fiction into the students' lives. Being able to identify a fact versus an opinion is a skill we are working on. This comes in handy since we are working on research skills, including taking notes over the important facts. This would be something fun and easy you could work on with your child at home!

Speaking of research, your child will also soon be an expert on one specific country because they have had or will soon have the opportunity to thoroughly research a country. They are doing their research using a book from a series of books that are student-friendly and packed with interesting and important information. They are doing this research in the media center. They will use the notes they take to write a post card pretending as if they visited the country. Look for this project to come home around the end of February. You'll be impressed by how much he/she knows, but don't be surprised if he/she tries to talk you in to actually visiting this place. 😊

With all the excitement going on in reading, writing, and unit studies, math might appear to be in the background, but it isn't! With division completed, we started studying all the ways to find an average and different types of graphs to represent data. Students were able to survey their peers to collect data and then to create a graph to represent their findings. After they've learned how to read a graph, they will learn (or are currently learning) how to read an analog clock. Soon you can ask your child for the time. This is an exciting time for them because it gives them a chance to be more responsible for their schedules. It is an opportunity for growth outside of school!

Keep up the reading minutes and math-fact practice at home! We can really see the impact this extra practice, done at home, has on them in school. Mrs. Settles would like to inform you of the CRT date for Simple Machines: Miss Lesoing - Feb. 14, Mrs. Davidson - Feb. 15, and Mrs. Ross - Feb. 19.

Once again, Happy New Year!

