

CRANE'S CLASS NEWS

March 14, 2011

Special Events

- Early Release days for the remainder of the year: March 23, April 27, May 11 and May 25.
- There will be a sub on Wed. and Thursday this week. I will be in training and then at District Excellence meeting. Next Monday there will also be a sub as I will be out of town for personal business. I really hate being out of my classroom so much.
- PTO meeting this Thursday at 4:30 in the LE media center-all parents invited to attend.
- March 29: 6:00 p.m.: Spring Music Program
- April 21-Family Literacy Night (more info later)

This Week's Snap Words:

Reading

For phonics, this week we will review beginning blends and

work on ending blends. We also reviewed short vowel /a/.

For comprehension, we reviewed making connections and learned how they help us understand the story better. We also worked on visualizing-making a picture of what is happening in our mind after reading each page. You can help your child with this at home when you are reading to him/her by saying, "When I read . . . I imagine . . ." Another comprehension strategy we worked on was learning the difference between reality and fantasy. You can review this with your child at home when he/she rereads I'd Like to Be by asking after each page, "Is this reality or fiction?"

(For writing, we wrote poems about what we'd like to be and made pictures of ourselves doing that job.)

Please remember to continue to have your child read for at least 20 minutes every night. We are drawing out one lucky winner a week for our March is Reading Month prize. Everyone

who reads at least 16 times this month will still be able to pick a prize out of the prize box as always.

Egg Cartons

Ask and you shall receive! Boy, did we get a lot of plastic bags brought in. Thank you so much! But, we are still in need of **Styrofoam egg cartons**. We'll be using these for painting projects.

Social Studies

This week we are going over how schools have a past. We read one book before and compared the past to the present. That's when we saw that in the past they had desks in straight rows and we have tables. I told the kids that we would be getting desks too because our pockets were ripping and we need to have a place to keep our things. I didn't think the maintenance crew would be able to get to it until spring break, but two days after my request - BAM! We got desks!! What an awesome maintenance

crew and what a surprise to the children (continued on back . . .) last Monday! The children wanted to experience what it was like to sit at desks in straight rows. So we're trying that for a while, then we're going to put them in groups, like tables. Then the students write a persuasive paper telling which way they liked the desks best and why. For social studies, we will also be learning that national holidays are ways we honor and celebrate events and people of the past that helped make our country better.

Math Matters

This week for PALS time, we will be working on place value and learning that all numbers have a ones place and some numbers have a tens place. We have been talking about tens and ones since the beginning of the year. This is just another strategy to help students understand this concept better. It should help the students with learning how to tell ten more than any given number, such as ten more than 23 is 33 and ten less than any

number, such as ten less than 45 is 35. We are also continuing to work on learning the names and values of coins and counting like coins. It is our goal that everyone will know this skill by the end of the week. Please continue to go over these with your child at home until they know them in a snap.