

January 27, 2012

Hello Parents and Students,

During math lessons, the students continue to work at solving problems using the 100s chart. In the folder today, you will find a sheet with eight story problems that involved getting to 100. Please look this sheet over with your child. Students were given the opportunity to fix the mistakes made on the first try. One of the common mistakes was not answering both parts of the question. Another challenge for the students is to explain the strategy used. We will continue to work on both of these areas.

Also in the folder, you will find your child's latest test on telling time to the five minute interval. Most of the class scored 80% or better this time. Congratulations! Those who didn't achieve this level will get more coaching until progress is reached.

The students are continuing to work on informational writing. They used their science vocabulary words to help them writing a description of a rain drop flowing from the top of a mountain to the ocean. They could also use their sheets from our sand mountain activity to help them. Due to the short week, we did not start our research on National Parks until today. So next week they will be finding facts from the encyclopedia about a park of their choice.

One skill that we work on at school is building stamina. This means working at a task for an extended period of time. At this point, students should be working steady for about 15 to 20 minutes. Please practice this skill at home as well. Students should read for 15 continuous minutes or work on writing or homework for that long as well. Some students have a hard time staying at their writing task for this long, so any extra practice would help.

We are using the story The Value of Learning, The Story of Marie Curie to practice finding the main idea and supporting details in a text. This is a great story of how Marie Curie grew up in Poland. Her dream was to become a scientist. We are finding out that it was hard work for her. Women were not treated fairly in her days. Since she loved to learn, it was worth all the effort she made. We will be practicing looking for main idea and supporting details next week, too.

Have a great weekend!