

March 20, 2009

Happy Spring Everyone!

It was good speaking with all of you at parent teacher conferences this week. Invariably, I come away with more information on how to work even more effectively with your children. Everyone is making progress, and where challenges interfere with or slow that progress, actions are taken to provide more support and encouragement. Sometimes that means children work with other support staff in the building. We have many students working with the speech and language pathologist, the occupational therapist, reading specialist, and school adjustment counselors.

This coming week, we will begin to use Writer's Workshop as a whole class activity instead of the small group work we have done thus far. This will be a big challenge. Students will need to work on their own more and not come to a teacher for individual help as all students will need help and attention every day in order to make progress as individuals. A few students can confidently open their writing folders, look at the work they have finished, and move forward with invented spelling and clear illustrations. The average student cannot yet do this but they need to try. In the end they will be more confident and capable writers. It's a process that needs practice and support.

We have been talking about healthy bodies this week and the students watched a United Streaming video from Discovery Education on the topic. The focus was on the food pyramid but it also talked about exercise, rest, water, and keeping clean. As a whole class, we created a word bank and talked about the different things people need to stay healthy. I am deliberately connecting this to our earlier study of plants. We will eventually arrive at the understanding that all living things need the same things. When we say shelter we mean protection from the elements. Sometimes this is a house but it also means clothing and warmth. Plants need to be anchored into the soil and safe from freezing temperatures. Ducklings will need warmth and protection from predators.

Remember: If you are sending in a note about your child, you must include the child's full name, the date, and your full signature. If your signature isn't legible, it would be wise to print your name as well so we can tell which parent is sending the note. The office reviews most of the notes we receive and they don't know who Joey is when the parent has a different last name. For this reason, we ask that all notes include the student's full name. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Today is the first day of Spring.
Hooray!*

Have a wonderful weekend with your children.

Regards,
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