

January 18, 2019

Dear Parents,

Every day our students are engaged in purposeful writing in their classrooms during **writing workshop**. They learn about the writer's craft, compose stories and informational texts, illustrate, revise, and edit their work. It is a joy to watch our students employ the letter-sound knowledge and writing skills they are learning as they write to communicate ideas and information to their audience.

First graders have been writing "How-To" books---procedural texts that require that they visualize and break down a task in order to communicate the steps of a process to their readers. Mrs. DeRop's class wrote books, "How to Make a Paper Snowflake." Then they visited kindergarten classrooms where the children used their books as guides as the first graders coached them. The result was a roomful of beautiful paper snowflakes! We love to see children teaching one another.

With Valentine's Day approaching, I hope you will engage your child in some writing at home. Making homemade **Valentine cards** for grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors and friends is a terrific way for your child to use his/her developing writing skills to show kindness to others. If your child will be signing store-bought cards for his/her peers, try to spread the task out over a number of nights so that the act of signing his/her name isn't too arduous a task. (Yes, your child should sign his/her own Valentines!) Just please remember that **we do not permit the distribution of candy** (or any food item) in school—even on Valentine's Day!

I hope you take some time for making Valentines with your child in the next month. As your child writes, please remember that s/he is just learning conventional spelling. If you are asked for the correct spelling—provide it, but don't expect perfect spelling at this age! Just enjoy listening and watching as your child engages in the writing process--- I know you will be impressed.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled magic show at Kindergarten Family Fun Night next Thursday. First grade's night will be the following Thursday, 1/31. Look for more information in the E-blasts from the GPFA.

Have a wonderful three- day weekend!

Warm regards,

Lynn Herschlein