

January 5, 2009

Dear 4B parents,



Welcome back and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you survived “Snowpocalypse 2008” and had a great Christmas break with lots of rest, excitement and peace. This week we’ll be getting back into the swing of things and finishing up assignments that we didn’t finish before break. We’ll also be reviewing rules and procedures.



Reading - Today we finished the Chris Van Allsburg flip books and tomorrow we’ll be introducing our unit on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This is a terrific unit, so be sure to ask your child over the next few weeks about his life. We will read a short book on his life and take notes, which they will be using for the writing they’ll start the following week. I will be reading aloud “I Have A Dream”; a very good story on his life, as well. I will also be sharing pictures and information I gathered from summer 2007 when I visited his birthplace in Atlanta. (I lived outside Atlanta for six years during high school and it was my high school reunion that summer, so I was able to visit [The King Center](#), which included Martin’s birthplace, tomb, church, the surrounding area, and many of his personal effects. I’m fortunate to share this with your children.)

Students should turn in their December reading logs with updated reading times and have it signed by you. They have received a January reading log.

Religion - Students will be given a copy of the Nicene Creed this week, which should be memorized by Friday, February 13th. The Liturgical Year tests have been graded and will be returned this week. We will review Steps to Respect this week.

Language Arts - Students will be writing about an adventure over Christmas break. They will be using Brilliant Beginnings to engage

the reader right from the beginning. They will also be preparing to do some formal writing on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Social Studies - **State in a Box Project**. Students may begin to collect items that they would like to place in their boxes, but I would like them to hold off on any actual box assembly until after this Thursday. Please read over the direction sheet with your child to learn about the project, due dates, and other important information. **Students will also need to find a shoebox!** The best boxes for this project are the larger shoeboxes with attached lids. But we can work with most any type box, just so it is not too small or too big. Please try to have a box to school by **this Thursday** if possible, or next Monday, January 12th, at the latest. We will be having our missed **Western State test this Thursday**. We had a review in class today for this test. **The big 50 State test will take place Thursday, January 22nd.**

Math - Today students learned a unique way to identify story problems. Students have also begun practicing the multiplication facts. They should be doing these each night for homework, along with the regular math sheet. Checking over the facts each night will help them learn these for accuracy. Refer to the class web site for web sites that have fact practice online. There will be a math test at the end of the week as we review the information learned before break.

Science - Students observe the inside of an (incandescent) light bulb and also will build a circuit.

Report cards signed envelopes should be returned if they have not already been. Thank you.

The bowling party will be rescheduled most likely for later this month.

Andrew is Student of the Week this week.

Have a great week!