

January 11, 2022

Happy Winter! We are wishing you all the best for the new year. The kids came back from vacation eager to learn and make 2022 a great year. They are really doing a great job, in spite of everything they are dealing with. As you can see, we have a lot going on this month.

### **Testing**

Students will be testing for much of the month of January. We have Fountas and Pinnell reading tests as well as the NWEA. These tests are designed to show growth in reading and math since September. Please encourage your kids to get plenty of rest and do their best on all tests.

### **Math**

In math we are learning about fractions. Our focus areas this month are reducing to lowest terms, changing improper fractions to mixed numbers, and adding and subtracting fractions. We have just started multiplying fractions. Many assignments, as you know, are done in class so there should not be much homework. Things are going well so far. Please feel free to encourage your child to bring home his or her math book for extra practice. We don't use the book much, but it is still a great resource. If you notice your child is struggling and you have tried to help, please let me know as soon as possible. It is important to stay "caught up" because each new skill builds on previous skills.

### **Science**

We will be studying biomes and ecosystems. The kids will build their own slide show presentations and learn how to take notes using a variety of resources. This is an interesting unit that dovetails nicely with language arts.

### **Robotics**

Each Thursday, Mrs. McEwen and a couple of her pre-engineering students from the high school will be visiting Canaan Elementary. The students have been assembling robots. They will use these robots to do a variety of tasks. We have learned valuable engineering skills from these lessons. There is a lot of thinking on the fly, trial and error, and critical thinking taking place. Not to mention, it's lots of fun. I will take some videos of the robots in action and try to share them with families.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please email or call.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Louder