Happy New Year! As we start the new year, I find a renewed excitement for learning since this is the time of year I see so much growth and exploration from the students. Since they have learned many strategies for being problem solvers and a mindset of “We can do hard things”, I find the children bloom during these next few months. By the end of January we will do the NWEA testing and this is when I see big gains. The children took these tests back in September and will take them again in May. They test the children on skills in Reading and Math and are used to map progress and growth for each individual child.

Reminder, we go outside every day. Please send your child to school with proper outside gear, including hats, mittens, boots, and winter jackets and snow pants. Also, please send in a pair of inside shoes. They can be left at school or brought back and forth. Thank you for your support! ☺

**What have we been learning about? And will continue to work on in January...**

* **Writing:** In December we focused on writing a daily recount of our classroom elf’s adventures. During this time we focused on proper grammar, punctuation and capitalization. We also included the use of adjectives and details. For January, we will work on procedural writing, informational writing, and opinion writing.
* **Math:** In December we continued reviewing addition and subtraction strategies we can use for solving a math equation using 10. We talked about teen numbers and connecting addition and subtraction to help us fluently add and subtract.

**Some of our Strategies Are…**

 **\*Use a number line**

 **\*Know our doubles facts.**

 **\*Make a Ten strategy**

 **\* Plus 10, subtract 10**

 **\*Fact Families**

We have also started Place Value and seeing numbers as tens and ones. We will continue with place value throughout January. It is important for the children to become fluent and knowing their math facts to 10. Once they master these, it will continue to help them as we move through place value. A few minutes of practice each night is wonderful “homework” to help build confidence.

* **Reading:** We are learning new sight words every week with the practice of word wheels and rimes. We have learned about the long vowel /a/, and how to decode words. The children have learned about the bossy /e/ at the end of a word and two vowels walking, the first one does the talking. The children work in reading groups on at least 1-4 new books a week, depending on where they are at. If you would like suggestions for home reading, please reach out and I will be more than happy to recommend some good books.

**Dates to Remember:**

* **January 20th – No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**
* **January 28th - NWEA testing in the morning.**
* **January 29th – Early Release Day**
* **January 30th- NWEA testing in the afternoon.**