Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope everyone took some time to rest and enjoy something new or fun during vacation.

We begin NWEA testing this week. 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. Make sure your child comes to school well rested and eating a great breakfast each morning.

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

- **Writing:** The children have started writing a book about their vacation. We started drawing out at least three important parts of our vacation. Now we are writing detailed stories to go with each picture. They are to remember to use an opening sentence, 3-5 detail sentences and a closing sentence.
  - At home, you can encourage your child to keep a weekly journal, such as the one that went home about our classroom elf. Having your child write 1-2 sentences a day about what they are doing is a good way to encourage using spelling words and stretching out unknown words.

We will continue to use the framework of **Opening Sentence, 3 Details, Closing sentence** as we continue to write the 3 different types of writing, **Narrative, Informational and Opinion**. Our focus will be on the season of Winter.

- **Math:** We have been reviewing addition and subtraction strategies we can use for solving a math equation. I encourage the children to use the one that is most efficient for them.

  **Our Strategies Are...**
  - Use a number line
  - Draw a part/part mat
  - Know our doubles facts. Knowing these will also allow us to use doubles plus one or doubles take away one to help solve.
  - Make a Ten strategy
*Fact Families- Know that all facts are in a family and they are connected. Knowing Part + Part = Whole, so I can also relate… Whole – Part = Part

We will begin to learn about telling time. With the new year and many talking about New Year’s Eve celebrations, it is perfect “timing” to start looking at the clock and learn how to tell time to the hour and half hour.

- At home, make or purchase, a package of addition and subtraction flashcards and practice a couple times a week. Learning these math facts is important to building higher concepts as the children grow older.
- You can start using a schedule in your home. Write down the order of their morning, or what the routine is after school until bedtime. We talk about our schedule each day. We will make a written one in the classroom and add times to it. It helps the children understand the concept of time in a day. It also helps them practice reading a clock.

- **Reading:** We are learning new sight words every week. The children work in reading groups on at least 1-4 new books a week, depending on where they are at. Some children are in, and are moving into, chapter books. With chapter books, we do a chapter each day. If you would like suggestions for home reading, please reach out and I will be more than happy to recommend some good books.

- **Science:** We have started a new unit about our sky and the sun, moon and stars.

**Dates to Remember:**
- January 17th – No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- January 26th – Early Release Day
1st Grade Times
With Mrs. Bellerose
January 10, 2022