



# First Grade Times with Mrs. Bellerose March 29, 2024

It is almost April☺! The weather is still a mixed bag of "We just don't know!". Just over a week ago, it looked like winter gear was gone for months and mud was beginning to dry up. Now we are back to the middle of winter with LOTS of snow which will bring LOTS of mud! Please continue to send your children to school with proper playground attire. Right now, that means snow pants, jackets (preferably with layers) hats and mittens. As the snow melts, we will encounter a lot of mud, so we ask the kids to continue to wear boots and pack a pair of inside shoes to change into or keep here at school, to help keep our floors clean. Fingers crossed, after vacation, we are free of winter gear, again.

A reminder that learning to tie shoes is homework each night until they can independently tie shoes. There are some great YouTube videos out there to help with this. Knowing how to tie shoes is an important independent skill for all children to have.

We could use donations of baby wipes. The children are responsible for cleaning tables after snack. We use baby wipes since they do not have chemicals in them. Thank You for your support!

## What have we been doing?

- **Writing:** We have been working on writing a book about an imaginary house we would love to build. After reading "If I Built a House", by Chris Van Dusen, the children have been asked to imagine their wildest home. They are utilizing all the writing skills we have learned up to this point and putting it together in the process of writing this book. They are using transition words, adjectives and learning how to write a story with a beginning, middle and end. I am expecting them to write an opening sentence, multiple detailed sentences, and a closing sentence for each of the 6 rooms they will have in their houses. Our story has a setting, characters, and lots of imagination!
- **Math:** We are working on mentally adding and subtracting multiples of 10, from any number. We have also talked about decomposing and composing a number to help build number sense. We are also talking a lot about "Popcorn Math". That is when they can quickly recall their math



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facts as fast as popcorn pops. Building this fact fluency is very important to success in math. At home, you can practice with flash cards. This is an important activity to work on weekly to help build those connections. We do weekly fact practice.

- **Reading:** The children continue to read in small, guided reading groups building fluency and problem-solving skills when we come to unfamiliar words. We have been working on a group of Rimes and endings. The children are learning these chunks of rimes to help them break words apart for decoding unfamiliar words for reading and spelling. It is exciting to watch some of these connections finally happening!

## What will we be learning about?

\* After vacation, we will learn about Poetry, Geometry and Animals and their adaptations.

## Important Dates to remember:

- **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Mr. Drew and his animal presentation in the AM.
- **April 8<sup>th</sup>**- Signing of the Beam for the new school in Skowhegan
- **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**- District Wide Early Release Day- students dismissed at 11:45am.
- **April 11<sup>th</sup>**- Bikes for Books Drawing
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**- April vacation. Enjoy some outside Family time!
- **April 29<sup>th</sup>**- May 3<sup>rd</sup>- Book Fair
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>**- Arts and Academics Night



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