Happy new year! Here’s to hoping that life gets back to “normal” during 2022!

Good news: our class won the holiday door contest! Our theme was based on all the many versions of the gingerbread boy stories that we had read.

Our first graders are doing a marvelous job with long vowels. We have learned that there are many ways to spell the long A and E sounds. We have just begun learning about long O. I’m sure it will come just as easily for them as the other two long vowels.

In math, we have been learning about Fact Families and strategies for adding and subtracting up to sums of 20. I want kids to use the strategies that work the best for them. The ultimate goal is to have them memorize their facts. We have also been working on word problems. Those are a bit tricky, but we’re discovering strategies to help us conquer them. A great way to help with math at home is to practice basic addition and subtraction facts 0-20. Mastering these will set the stage for math at all other grades levels.

For the months of January and February, our focus in writing will be about winter. We will write a personal narrative that includes activities that we have done during the winter. We will also write an opinion piece about our feelings about winter. (I’m a “more snow please” person!) Then we will do some nonfiction reading about winter so that we can write an informational piece.

Our spelling this year includes 100 high-frequency words that our first graders need to know. Thirty of these words were from kindergarten. Even though we study them daily, practice at home would be beneficial. The list is included with this letter.

In science, not only will we be learning about facts about winter, but we will also be doing a unit of study about the sun, moon, and stars.
DATES TO KNOW:

January 14th - picture retake day. This will also be the day for students who were absent on the first picture day.

We will be celebrating our victory of the best-decorated door on the 14th with a pizza party.

January 17th is a holiday. We will be observing Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

On January 18th and 20th, we will be taking the NWEAs. The kids will be tested in the areas of math and reading.

January 26th is an early release day.

Have a wonderful January.

Sincerely,

Paula Whittemore