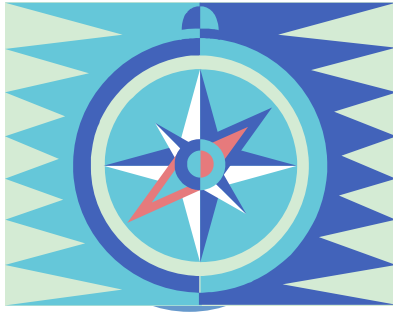


January 6, 2012

Rm. 20-Ms. McNeil



# JANUARY'S NEWS

*PENGUINS...(and other news)*

## JANUARY'S SCHEDULE

JAN. 11th Early Release Day  
12:10 Dismissal  
JAN. 16th: MLK Day  
(no school)  
JAN. 20th Movie Night  
JAN. 27th Spirit Day

## FEBRUARY'S SCHEDULE

FEB. 1st Newark Theatre  
Field Trip, 8:45-11:00  
FEB. 8th Early Release Day  
12:10 Dismissal  
FEB. 10th Bingo Night  
FEB. 17th InService Day  
No School  
FEB. 20th: President's Day  
No School  
FEB. 28th/29th:  
Evening Conferences  
FEB. PENGUIN NIGHT  
TBA

### Math Corner:

*Please continue to work  
on learning and knowing  
your Doubles up to 12!*

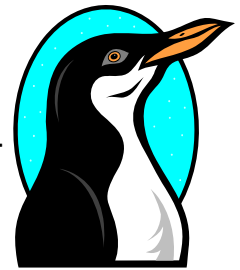
Welcome to Antarctica! I don't know if you've heard, but we are on a very exciting journey to Antarctica. We are studying seven different kinds of penguins including: Rockhoppers, Kings, Little Blues, Gentoos, Chinstraps, and Emperors, and Humboldts. This is one of the most integrated curriculums I have ever taught. It is theme teaching at its finest, where the children become engaged in a topic that they love and in the process, learn about all sorts of other things related to important subjects such as math, science, geography, language arts, and even art and music.

## Word Wall Words:

The word wall work that we have been doing in class has been very successful. It will be very helpful if you follow up with the portable word wall at home. When the words come home early in the week make sure that the words are cut out

and glued under the correct letter. The word wall practice on the back of the portable word wall really helps to reinforce the words, and we have been having fun spelling and clapping each word. See if your child can use the word in a sentence

We are learning about the habitat of Antarctica, penguin predators, and all sorts of penguin facts which involve measuring, weighing, computation, researching, writing and soon, creating our own lifsize



*We love penguins!!!*

penguins! This unit will culminate in a Penguin Open House (TBA), where you will be lead by your special explorer as they show you what they have discovered and accomplished during this exciting journey.

and spell the word out loud. This will be a great way to reinforce those high frequency words that we use when we write. We will soon start playing a fun game of Word Wall Concentration in our centers. In order to keep the words you are able to match, you have to be able to spell them!

## Four Square Writing

Four square writing is something that we will be experimenting with in the classroom, and it might be something that you will want to encourage at home as well. It is a format for organizing the thoughts of young writers so that they may write about a topic of interest with a sense of purpose and greater success. The first step is to decide upon a topic. Next they

take a plain piece of paper and fold it into four sections. With the topic's name written in the center of the page, they organize four ideas about the topic, and write one in each box on the page. Then they may go back and add a couple of details under each idea, and they are ready to write! They can publish their work in a little book format, so they really have a feeling of success and a finished product at the end of the process. They

write the topic name or title on the cover the book and each page in the book is devoted to one of the four ideas they have plotted out on their folded paper. An optional idea is an Author's page added at the very end where they can write a little bit about themselves and that really gives them a feeling of accomplishment! Try it at home if you like!

Ask them to tell you what we do when we "*think we are done*" with our writing.



## The Daily 5

We have launched back into the Daily 5 with renewed passion! It is my goal to read with each leveled reading group twice a week and to continue with Word Work, Writing, Reading to Self,

Reading with a Buddy, and Listening to Reading during the workshop. Kids have learned to pick 4 'just right' books for their book tubs and 1 book that is of interest but is more challenging.

During 'buddy reading' they are learning to check for comprehension, and to listen to each other read for intonation during "I read, you read". We are pretty excited with our reading progress and give a big "THANK YOU!" to our Home Reading and Writing Workshop parents.

**"The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."  
Robert Louis Stevenson**

## We love to share in Room 20!

Children love to share special information or items from home, and we have been doing that when I remember to send slips home for the sharing that will happen next day. I will try to be more consistent with

that! Our curriculum is so full now that there is not as much time for sharing as we would like, but I do think it is a valuable speaking and listening activity. I have organized our sharing activities so that one table will be sharing each week, on Fri-

days. To accommodate our busy schedules we will be sharing on a rotation basis. Table 1, or I should say the 'Rockhoppers' will be sharing next Friday, Jan. 13th and we will go through all of the tables before we begin the rotation again. There is a sharing chart at the front of the room which identifies which table is sharing on a given week, so your child can check the chart to see when their sharing week is coming up.