



JANUARY'S NEWS

PENGUINS...(and other news)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

<i>Feb. 5th:</i>	<i>Early Release 12:10</i>
<i>Feb. 12th:</i>	<i>Author Visit (8:10)</i>
<i>Feb. 12th</i>	<i>Valentine Party (9:15-10:45)</i>
<i>Feb. 13th</i>	<i>Field Trip to 8:30-11:30 Newmark Theater</i>
<i>Feb. 14th</i>	<i>No School Staff Development</i>
<i>Feb. 17th</i>	<i>President's Day No School</i>
<i>Feb. 21st</i>	<i>100 Day Party</i>
<i>March 5th</i>	<i>Early Release 12:10</i>
<i>March 6th</i>	<i>Penguin Open House 5:00-6:30</i>
<i>March 11-12</i>	<i>Evening Conferences</i>
<i>March 13</i>	<i>Morning Conferences</i>
<i>March 14</i>	<i>No School</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>Zoo Field Trip</i>
<i>Art Lit</i>	<i>9:25-10:55</i>
<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>March 24-28</i>

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 on Monday (or later:\), 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

We are learning about the habitat of Antarctica, penguin predators, and all sorts of penguin facts which involve measuring, weighing, researching, and soon, creating our own lfsize penguins! This unit will culminate in a Penguin Open House on March 6th from 5:00-6:30, where you will be lead by your special explorer as they show you what they have discovered and accomplished during this exciting journey.



We love penguins!!!

word in a sentence 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 be playing a fun game of Word Wall Concentration in our centers. In order to keep the word you are able to match, you have to be able to spell it!

Four Square Writing

Four square writing is something that we are 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. There may be 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!



The Daily 5

We have launched back-into our Daily 5 with renewed passion. It is my goal to read with each leveled reading group twice a week and get each student to the computer twice a week. In the

Daily 5 students **read to self independently** (choosing 'just right' books and using strategies we use in our guided reading groups), **buddy read** (which encourages checking with each other

for understanding), **write** about topics of interest (in their journals or write small books about penguins), do **word work** (practicing spelling patterns and high frequency words), and **listen to reading**.

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

Super Kids love to share in Room 20!

Children love to share special information about themselves, and we have been doing this with our Super Kids presentations once a week. At the beginning of the year a special form was sent home to be filled out with a

class roster and a date next to the name of each child. This is the date that your child should have their form filled out and returned with any photos that they would like to share with the rest of the class. We usually do the presentations on the Friday

of the week that your child is to present. We love getting to know more about each other and we always open it up for a question and comment session afterwards. We have had to reschedule some Super Kid times at the end of the year and we are running out of room to reschedule, so make a note of your child's time to present and mark it on your calendars. You may send the materials in on the week your child is presenting.