Mrs. Cavazos’ Weekly Newsletter Week #18

 **Happy New Year Everyone!**

Welcome back everyone! I hope everyone had a fabulous winter break. I had a great time at home reorganizing things then, it trickled into the classroom. By the time I knew it, I had already moved furniture around. Then, I cleaned out our classroom closets. I think my son was ready for me to return to school so I wouldn’t start in his room. He had enough of my organization with baskets and labels. I also did some shopping, visited family and spent time with my grandsons. It was such a nice vacation. I hope to hear about each child vacation and holiday celebrations.

Please remember to check the **calendar** on living tree to see what is coming up in January 2014. I will need a few parent readers to sign up.

**Science Fair** is approaching soon. If a student participates in the science fair, I will give extra credit for science. I hope everyone participates. Go Science! You can get the forms from the PTA website. I have about 3 packets of information for those that may need it.

**DRA** and **TPRI testing** will begin Jan. 13-Feb. 14. I plan on being done within a week. I will start on the 13th. These tests are to assess your child’s reading level. By January, your child should be at a 10. If they are not we will schedule a conference to discuss your child’s progress.

**Math Reflection**: A new year is a time to reflect on your teachings and think of ways to benefit your children. I have been thinking and researching ways to better serve the children’s needs. I have done this before with two teachers but I will do it solo. I will begin ***guided math*** when we return through the remainder of the year. This will ***benefit children*** in so many ways:

They will have small group instruction based on their needs and they will have more opportunities to explore through hands on, reading, enrichment, reteach, collaborate, and write about math, and quicker response. The students will all get the same lesson but the independent opportunities will be based on each child’s needs. Some might work faster and go through lessons quicker while others will need more of my assistance. Since every child develops differently, I hope this will benefit all.

**Academic Focus:**

**Math:** Composing and Decomposing numbers to 120.

**Language Arts:** *Reading- reading strategies, build vocabulary, reading comprehension. Writing-The writing process, writing letters and writing brief stories.*

**Science:** *Dynamic Earth*-The students know that the natural world includes rocks, soil, and water that can be observed in cycles, patterns and systems. The student will be expected to observe, compare, describe and sort components of soil by texture, size and color. Identify a variety of natural resources of water such as lakes, streams and oceans. They will also gather evidence of how rocks, soil and water help make useful products. If you have any books at home that you can send with your child to help him/her research this information, I would appreciate it.

**Social Studies**: New Year’s Celebrations

**Spelling Words**: The g sound in the initial, medial, or final position=**g** (glad) \*\*gap, gasp, gland, gang, glass, grass, pig, sag, tag, snag, flag, stag

*Challenging Words*- rocks, earth, New Year

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