



VOICE Charter School

Class Parent Newsletter

Mr. Berman's First Grade, Room 225
Jan/Feb 2010



The Great Explorers



On Dec. 17th the children visited the American Museum of Natural History with Miss Kyla. First they toured the "Extreme Mammals" exhibit to learn how 3 small bones in our ear set us apart from other creatures. Then they became paleontologists & explored the giants of the dinosaur halls. Thank you to the chaperones who joined us on the journey. Our next field trip will be Feb. 11th, to the Ally Pond Park Environmental Center.

Mr. Berman's class is hoping to purchase a new color printer to share with the classroom & school. Every dollar counts and together we can make this wish come true! Please go to www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=351499&verify=-1190670145 and donate. Thank you!

Class Curriculum

In **writing workshop**, students are creating their own characters and writing realistic fiction stories with those characters. In February, students will pick a topic they know well and will teach others what they know by writing "all-about" books. March begins the persuasive letter writing unit. Students will decide what they want to change at home, in school, and in the world and then, write letters. This culminates with a trip to the mailbox to mail them.

Reading workshop during January focuses on characters in book series. In February, students will read nonfiction books on specific topics and will share information about those topics.

In **math**, students are learning how to tell time to the hour and half hour on analog clocks. They will also practice skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Students will then compare and order measurements. They will continue solving addition & subtraction problems.

In **science**, the students are studying the air and weather. They will explore the properties of air and will also observe daily weather and record their observations.

In January, the school-wide **social studies** unit is China and the celebration of Chinese New Year. In February, students will study ancient Egypt followed by the culture of Mexico.

In **LEAP** with Miss Kyla, the students are furthering their studies of China with lantern-making and a Chinese New Year Celebration in the classroom.

Mr. Berman's Reading Tips

- Have students stop when they make a mistake and fix it before they continue reading.
- Have students figure out tricky words by asking if it looks right, sounds right, and makes sense.
- Have students stop and think about what they are reading throughout a story. If they do not know what is happening, have them go back and reread.
- Have students think about how characters are feeling and if those feelings change throughout the book.
- Have students read in a storyteller's voice by rereading, sounding like the character, and paying attention to punctuation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 26	Mr. Sanon's Haiti presentation (9am, classroom)
Jan 28	Parents Association Meetings (times: TBA)
Feb 2	Charter Schools Advocacy Day in Albany
Feb 4	NYC Master Choral Performance
Feb 8	Parent's Curriculum Workshop (3:45pm, Auditorium)
Feb 11	Field trip to Ally Pond Park Environmental Center
Feb 12	Valentine's Day snack celebration (in classroom)
Feb 15-19	School Closed : Winter Break
Feb 23	100 th Day of School Celebration



Thank you for making our "Gift of Giving" toy, clothing & book drive such a success!

The first grade classes collected many donations for HOUR CHILDREN and they were delivered in time for the holidays. Our classroom celebration and craft project went very well. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in the classroom & the families who donated.

Mr. Berman's Wish List

More paper towels, tissues and baby wipes are needed. Any healthy snacks and juices are greatly appreciated (juice boxes, applesauce, crackers, pretzels, & goldfish). Please avoid snacks with peanuts due to allergies in our classroom.

REMINDERS

- *Please inform Mr. Berman if your child will be out of school for an extended period of time (for vacation or illness) so they can have school & homework sent home with them. *The best way to communicate with Mr. Berman is a note in your child's folder.
- *Please label all student clothing. THANK YOU!

Class Parents:

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