Kindergarten News- Week of 1/9/17

**Important Dates:**

January 16th: MLK Jr. Day- No school

January 18th: Inservice training for teachers- No school for kids

**FUNdations (Word Study)**

We have completed the lowercase alphabet and are now cruising through uppercase. Once we finish practicing uppercase letters, we will put our letter identification skills to work by spelling consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words, such as ‘cat’.

**Writer’s Workshop**

Last week in Writer’s Workshop we wrote about what our New Year’s resolutions are. It was wonderful to hear what the kids came up with! Please ask your child what his/her New Year’s resolution is and why. We now are reviewing pattern books. Pattern books help with recognizing and writing sight words as well as structuring sentences. Soon we will start our opinion unit!

**Reader’s Workshop**

This week we will review our ‘Reading Super Powers’ and we will continue to practice the routines of guided reading groups. During guided reading group time, students will have a chance to meet with me in small groups to practice letter recognition, sight words, reading fluency, reading comprehension and concepts about print. When students are not meeting with me, they are moving through other Common Core based literacy stations with their peers.

A new tool is being introduced to our independent reading station. Students will be asked to read “just-right” books from their book boxes and will be using reading mats to help keep these books organized.

**Math Block:**

We are continuing our unit on measurement and this week we will be focusing on measuring weight. Students will work with a math partner to explore balance scales and will be given several measurement tasks throughout the week.

Mathematicians will also be solving addition problems in their problem-solving journals.

**Science:**

Last week in science we started learning about Vermont animals in Winter. We learned three new vocabulary words: hibernate, dormant, and active. Please ask your child to tell you how some animals survive in cold climates. Can s/he name an animal that hibernates?

**Social Studies**

This month we will learn about Martin Luther King Jr. and how he impacted our lives today. Please note that we will not have school on January 16th for MLK day.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can always be reached at tbellava@bsdvt.org.

My best,

Tracey