



Grade 1-2

April 18, 2008

Dear First and Second Grade Families,

We would like to share that it was wonderful meeting with all of you at conferences a few weeks ago. We are always excited to talk about the work the children are doing in school and it is always insightful to hear your thoughts and perspectives on how you see your children. We are so proud of the work they have done and continue to do!

After our Spring break, the children jumped right back into the swing of things. On Monday, the children were thrilled and anxious to write about their vacation in their weekly NEWS. We have noticed that their NEWS writing has become an enjoyable and a more in-depth writing time for them. They are learning how to write personal narratives where they share their life experience, thoughts and feelings with detail, seriousness and even humor. When writing NEWS the children know that they are documenting their life experiences to share with the RMDS community. This awareness heightens the importance for them to write clearly, thoughtfully and legibly for an audience. For us, NEWS is a great way to see how they are applying the writing skills, strategies and language rules we have introduced. We have not only noticed a great joy of writing, we have also seen huge improvements in just about all areas of their writing. They enjoy reading each other's NEWS so much that when we haven't had a chance to post their latest writing sheets, they always remind us and ask us to put them up so that they can read their classmates NEWS. Reading their NEWS is one of our favorite things to do; we hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

Speaking of writing, this week we have added onto to our non-fiction writing study by launching the "All About Books" unit. This unit will give children the opportunity to pick a topic they are interested in leaning more about, research and then write an "All About Book". We will share more of the non-fiction writing process in the future, but for now we are sending home some fun homework. This week, your child picked a topic and for homework they are to research their topic and collect five facts about their topic at home. They can use the library, internet or interview friends or family. This is not a report; it is just an assignment to collect 5 facts to help them begin the writing process in class. Have fun!

Enjoy the weekend!

Luisa and Amy

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