

# News from Room 1❄4



A weekly newsletter from Mrs. Woodring

12/4/10

## This Week's News

### Reading

This week, we added many new reading strategies to our literacy CAFE menu. We added all of our decoding strategies to the accuracy category (except Helpful Kangaroo-they don't need to practice this one, they are already experts at asking for help :)). We also talked about how using our Shape GO! Retelling map helps us to see what we can remember and how much we understood from our stories, so we added it to our comprehension category.

We also talked about how the most important decision that they make each day is which books to keep in their book box. We talked about how picking a JUST RIGHT book is so important for many reasons, but we focused on how when you read a just right book, the first time, you read it slowly to figure out each word. Then each time you read it after that, you are able to practice reading it fluently. To help the students know what it means to read fluently, we talked about how reading is like eating cereal (stay with me). When you eat cereal, you don't just scoop up one piece at a time, you scoop three or four at a time. When you read fluently, you don't read just one word at a time, you scoop up a few words at a time. Just right books are perfect for practicing scooping up a few words at a time, because the words aren't too tricky for us to read, so we added Just Right books to our fluency category on the CAFE menu.

### Writing

The students are producing such great work! This week, we worked on not only writing easy-to-read stories, but using our writing time more productively. We worked on using our word wall to write words more quickly and each student was given their own personal copy of the word wall to keep in their writing folder for a quicker reference. We then talked about how writers write and write and write some more. Some students are working so hard on making their stories easy-to-read that they are not producing as many stories. It is important that we try our best to make our writing easy-to-read, but we also need to have lots of practice writing. I challenged them on Wednesday and Thursday to see if they could complete a whole story in just one day and almost every single student was able to do it!

### Math

This week, we reviewed missing partner and missing total problems intermixed. We stressed how important it is to know which number is the missing number in the story (partner or total?). This will make it easier for the students to know from number they need to start counting on and at which number they need to stop counting. We will continue to practice these intermixed problems.

### Spelling

We introduced the new spelling words (he, for, was) and talked about how the /z/ sound is made in many ways: s, z, zz, se, es. We also worked with manipulating one letter in a word to build a new word.

## Next Week's News

### Reading

- Visualizing
- Adding to our CAFE Menu

### Writers' Workshop

- Revising by adding more sounds & punctuation

### Math

- Working with unknown partner and totals

### Spelling

- Unit 7: he, for, was

### Social Studies

- Maps & Geography

**Save the Date:** Our **Holiday Party** will take place Friday, December 17 from 2:45-2:30. We will not have a classroom gift exchange, but all parents are welcome to join us for the fun!

## Music Program

On Thursday, December 9 we will be enjoying some nice holiday music from the students of Georgetown Elementary. I can't wait to see the kids all fancied up and showing off their fun songs! Doors open at 6:30 at [Resurrection Life Church](#) for their 7:00 performance. Please make sure to be there no later than 6:45. I will be in our meeting room waiting to get the kids organized. More details will be coming from [Mrs. Bretz](#) soon.

## Up Ahead

- 12/7: Jets Pizza Night
- 12/9: Holiday Music Program
- 12/17: Holiday Party (2:45-3:20)

Have a great, snowy weekend!

Sarah Woodring