January 2018

Dear Parents,

 I guess winter has arrived, although we are so much more fortunate than the east coast! I am stressing that students use Kleenex, wash hands with soap often, and keep coughs covered. Hopefully, we can stay fairly healthy. Make sure to have your child dress for the weather. We go outside each day unless the temperature is below zero with the wind chill.

 We have started our reading unit on fiction. In this unit we will be using various forms of fiction to practice inferring, and understanding the importance of chronological order, story elements, and mood. This unit uses a variety of text including fables, folk tales, mysteries, and realistic fiction. Some of the stories are silly and fun, and some are more serious. The skills students learn in this unit will be reinforced during my read-alouds.

 As we finish our math unit on multiplication, I can’t stress enough that learning the multiplication facts is so important. Many students are mastering the facts, but continued practice will help them retain that. Our next unit is division. We will be doing basic division, division with remainders, and some simply long division. It promises to be a challenging unit.

 As we wrap up our study of Illinois, we are researching some famous Illinoisans and places of interest. We will have a visit from Mr. Bloomstrand on Feb. 1. He is from the Cook County Farm Bureau and will present an interesting presentation on agriculture and agribusiness. When we finish, we will begin our science unit on Forces in Action. There are many hands on activities in this unit and the students enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joanne Cooke

