April News

Dear Parents,

 Happy April Fool’s Day everyone! April is finally here! I think we are all grateful with the anticipation that warmer and sunnier weather is close by. It certainly seemed like a long and icy winter this year.

 April is a busy month in Room 3. Our room and Ms. McKelvey’s room will be hosting the April assembly. Please stay tuned for updates as the assembly approaches. Oneida is humming with the sounds of Africa and the tunes from Lion King. We will be doing some hallway art to help decorate for these very special performances. Our trip to see the Beanstock musical is on April 8. Lastly the Annual Oneida Spaghetti Supper is April 26. Traditionally each classroom collects items for a basket which will be raffled off at the dinner. Our basket theme is **gardening.** Please send any donations for our basket to school with your child in the next couple of weeks. Thank so much in advance for your support!

 In language, we have been working on a unit about asking and answering questions **before**, **during** and **after** we read. Asking questions of ourselves before and while we read a book ensures that we are understanding what we read. Answering questions after we have read a book ensures that we have understood the story plot. We have talked about **hand questions** (where you can point to the answer in the book), **head questions** (where you use information from the story and your own schema to answer the question), and the highest level of question, **the heart question** (where you use your feelings and opinions to answer the question). We have been using Laura Numeroff books as a basis for our question and answer unit, which has led to us publishing our own circle stories. The students have gotten quite creative with their stories. I’m sure you will enjoy their books when they come home.

 Our next language unit will be **point of view**. This is a fun unit as we will try to figure out which character is speaking in the story, or which character’s point of view the story is being told from. The difficult part is explaining how we know who is speaking, using specific evidence from the story. We will also work on explaining how the story might change if it was told from another character’s point of view.

 In math, we have finished our geometry unit. We discussed how we could describe 2D shapes using vertices and number of sides, the concept of symmetry, and how to describe 3D figures using the number of edges, vertices and faces. We also talked about how 2D shapes make the faces of 3D figures. We have begun our unit on 2-digit subtraction. We began by reviewing some of the strategies we could use to solve subtraction problems. Then we moved to 2-digit subtracting with no regrouping. This week we will move onto subtraction with regrouping. This is traditionally a very tricky concept as it is working backwards from adding, which we are used to.

 In Grade 2 Science we are finishing up our simple machines unit this week. Next, we will move to our last social studies unit on mapping skills. We will focus on the world being made up of continents, continents being made of countries, countries being made from communities. Then we will compare our community to different communities around the world in terms of how we meet our needs of shelter, food, safety, and play. We will also talk about the important role the equator plays in how we live our lives.

 Well I think that this is all for now. Please don’t hesitate to call or write a note in the agenda with any questions or concerns you may have. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Suzie Johnson