

March 17, 2008

Dear Parents and Students,

Are you wearing green? It's a day to be wary of those wee little critters known as leprechauns. They may not be able to lie, but beware; they are full of mischief. Let's read Leprechauns on the Loose this morning after we have our morning snack.

Congratulations to Hunter Clark and Liam Smith! Both students have earned the Hershey Kiss's Award! With great citizenship and superb work ethic, both students are jazzing up our classroom like the aurora borealis lights up the skies. Both students have completed their homework the past two weeks with good effort.

Hunter Clark has been coming into our classroom quietly every morning with a bubbly smile, ready to do her best on each challenge that comes her way! Hunter is a great participant in our classroom activities and discussions. She is doing a wonderful job making her puppet for her part in a play. If you are a friend of Hunter's, you will be treated fairly.

Liam is currently doing an amazing job working on his pen pal letter to his new Norridgewock friend. I enjoyed conferencing with such a serious writer who had a lot to say. Liam is also doing a wonderful job in music class, following directions and being an active participant. It is a treat to see you come into our classroom ready to start the day with a grin.

There are many great successes when we come to school and learn new ideas. Abbey Allen made it all the

way back to her seat first when she competed with others to answer math facts quicker during our *Around the World* game. Your brain is working faster than the time it takes a hummingbird to flap its wings three times.

We worked on identifying the question and important information in word problems. Students did an amazing job on this task. We continue to practice counting on by odd numbers and even numbers. Most mornings, we start out the day reviewing math skills. I am proud of how well many students are working independently on skills they found challenging just a month ago. It's amazing how fast we learn new skills.

We will study more about weather two more weeks before we move onto simple machines, one of my favorite units. I know you will like it, too. We reviewed the three states of water and the importance of water and the water cycle last week. Do you remember what the three states of water are? What instrument do we use when we read the temperature inside and outside? We learned that a whole lot of snow makes a little bit of water with our science experiment. Some students thought the packed snow would flow over the coffee can. Six inches of snow melted into about 2 inches of snow Let's listen, share, and learn some more cool ideas about weather this week.

We will finish the amazing biography of Helen Keller this week. We have learned much about this courageous woman. Students, we have had some great discussions. Let's learn some more sign language this week, too. Let's see if we can spell students' names using the manual alphabet. What other signs can you remember?

Britney Brown has been a sensational helper. When I tell her she needs to pass out papers as quickly as she can, she flies through the air like a great horned owl pursuing a scurrying mouse. She has run errands, helped get sleds for the whole class, and leading the classroom to places near and far in our wonderful school.

Many students shared their amazing voices when they read their poems to a very polite audience on Friday morning. I can tell that you practiced those poems again and again. Your words were read fluently with expression, students.

Congratulations to the following students for getting an Excellent on our Friday's spelling assessment:

Kane Grondin  
Malia Whittemore  
Abigail Monteyro  
Blake Burrill  
Abbey Allen  
Gregory Shrader  
Sarah Walker  
Julia Steeves

Students had an opportunity to work on laptops to do a school safety survey on Thursday morning. We will be doing research and a project on the laptops later in April.

A special thanks goes to the LeBlanc family for donating the Marble Mania gear set. We will be using it often when we start our simple machines unit. Let's all give a Woohoo for our classroom gift!

There have been many random acts of kindness extended to others this past week. Let's do our best to continue demonstrating what wonderful people we are!

Throughout the week, practice your spelling words like we do in class with a partner at home. Don't forget to look at the word often. Complete your homework to keep your brain healthy. Many students didn't put their names on homework. It is hard to figure out whom the homework belongs to when there is no name.

Remember to be a responsible classroom and school citizen! Drop Everything And Read whenever you can! Read! Read! Read!

Mrs. Forgue