

NEWS FROM THE MILKA WAY

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"An abundance of knowledge does not always teach one to be wise."
-Heraclitus

Next Week's Poem

Northeastern States &
Capitals

Weekly Word Study

Story: Big Bushy Mustache

town, house, sour, frown, cow,
clown, found, how, mouse,
brown, could, should, around,
towel

We are going to use these words for another week due to this week's short week and next week's short week.

Quick Reminders

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS and ALL NEWSLETTERS! I appreciate it!

Important Dates

Jan. 18 - No School

Jan. 22 - Math Family Fun Night

Jan. 28 - Book Order Due

SAVE THE DATE:

May 19 - Presidents on Parade from 9-10:30am. More info to come later this spring.



January 15

Dear Families,

We are working in hard to stay on task and to take responsibility to do our very best work. It is tricky for many right now.

States & Capitals

The children are excited about learning the states and capitals! A good way to practice is by making or purchasing flashcards, having a place mat with the states & capitals at the dinner table; I am sure you could find some nice small bedroom sized maps on Amazon.com or the likes. I know, some of you are saying "Say it isn't so! It can't be done!" Trust me, these kids CAN do it! Û We will practice in class, too I will say the state and the students should respond with the capital. At-home practice is extremely important, though; start small, learn three today, add a few each night.

Remember, our "quiz" each week will be cumulative. For example the children matched only the Southern states with their capitals this week; next week they will match the Northeastern states and capitals, but will also need to redo the Southern states (each page is separate, so they never have all 50 states mixed together). Students who can do all 50 states at the end will earn a special certificate from me.

Some students may also be interested in using this opportunity to earn some Over the Top Learning Club stars. Each section is worth one star. For Over the Top, students have to be able to do name the capital cities orally for me, when I ask them the state. This is tricky, as they won't have a list of possibilities to look at like they will on our quiz.

Valentine's Day

Our Valentine's Day party will take place the afternoon of February 12. I

Side Notes...

Class List for Valentines:

Dalia, Bella, Carter, Anna, Adam, Matthew, Tyler, Sophia, Kyler, Maggie, Mady, Lucas, Lauren, Hayden, Will M., Bryce, Elijah, Avori, Will P. Myah, Gavin, JT, Sophie, Brooklyn, Sydney, Amara, Liam, Holly, Bre & Mrs. Milka

States and Capitals Practice/Quiz Websites

- <http://www.yourchildlearns.com/Quiz/states-and-capitals.html>
- <http://www.yourchildlearns.com/mappuzzle/us-puzzle.html>
- http://www.yourchildlearns.com/us_map.htm
- http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_capitals_10_500.html
- <http://classroom.jc-schools.net/basic/socst50.html>

I am sure there are tons more out there.....

The only downfall is that most, if not all of these, practice all 50 states at once!

Things we could use for our Store:

- Pokemon Cards
- Gel Pens
- Finger Lights
- Mechanical Pencils
- Notebooks (small, medium or large)

Fun Fact about Mrs. Milka:

She does not like bugs of any sort, but most especially SPIDERS! EEEEEK!

always encourage students to make their own Valentine's rather than purchasing them. Store bought are fine, but I find that when they are homemade, the time and effort put into them makes them very special for the recipient and to the giver. Some ideas include: bookmarks, Valentine magnets, computer made cards, using construction paper and doilies, refrigerator magnets or simply making a construction paper card. The ideas are endless (Pinterest and other internet searches are awesome resources for ideas!). No matter what you and your child decide to do for Valentine cards, PLEASE have your child do the work of writing their friend's name and their own name (neatly) on their cards. In this newsletter is a list of students from our class (29 students plus teacher); to avoid hurt feelings each student should receive a Valentine.

I will not be needing parent helpers for this party as it is quite low key. However, I will send out a SignUp Genius message next week asking for supplies that will be needed for our fresh fruit party treat and for Valentine stickers to be used as bingo prizes. At our party will be simple, we will exchange valentines and play 'HEART' (a special form of Valentine Bingo - this class LOVES bingo!) have our treat and possibly watch a short video.

At Home State Reports packet is coming home today, Friday, January 15. They will be due on February 1. However, instruction sheets for this can be found under the "More" tab on our website for anyone who wants to get theirs started (or done) early! There will be no Monday, Language Arts , homework for the next two Mondays while the students work on this project.

I do not need to know what state your child chooses!
Any state is fine!

Accelerated Reader (AR)

Beginning in February, students will be required to have taken TWO AR tests each week. These need to be taken before our 2:30 recess on Fridays or students will stay back from recess the following week to make up missed tests. For children who have trouble getting one test taken each week, I encourage you to help your child ease into this transition by encouraging nightly reading so that this goal can be met. Students are expected to check out 2 AR books from the library every Tuesday, and we have LOTS of good AR books in class for the children to read (I don't mind if they are borrowed as long as they are returned promptly). Remember, you can also use the links on the AR page of the website to check to see if books you own at home are AR books. Many students are already taking far more AR tests than expected, these students will be fine!

REMEMBER:

Monday is a day off for students while teachers attend Professional Development!

Have a great weekend! ~Deb Milka