



# The Kindergarten News

March 7, 2008

## Writing Workshop: The Next Step

A few weeks ago, we highlighted in our newsletter the concept of capturing small moments during writing workshop. Below is a summary of our next step and our next few mini-lessons.

As the children finalize their published writings, we begin to transition into the next step of writing workshop; making sure each piece, whether published or not, is fully readable and understandable for their audience. During the next few mini-lessons, we will be reminding the students of the importance of stretching and sounding out unknown words in their writings to ensure all sounds are represented. Words such as “school” may still be spelled “skol” but even with this misspelling a high level of phonological awareness is evident. High frequency sight words are expected to be spelled correctly since these are located throughout out classrooms and are frequently used in writing. We are also continuing to emphasize the importance of vowels by making sure that each written word contains them. These new mini-lessons can make a world of difference in

making writing more readable. It’s potent , powerful stuff; but the lessons can backfire if not careful.

The risk is that students could be “scared” away from being active, resourceful spellers and in turn begin to retreat into having a hyper-concern for convention. The last thing we want to achieve through our heightened awareness to spelling and conventions is for students to become passive and dependent upon the teacher for help with spelling. Our goal is to make the students more aware of the importance of writing as a way to convey meaning and making sure that ideas are communicated in decipherable ways.

## HELP PLEASE!!!

In order for our bird feeder project to work, we need for each child to send in a cardboard, half gallon milk container. Some students have sent in extras (which is great!), but we still need a few more. Please send in as many of these milk cartons as you have by Monday so that we can continue building our bird feeders.

## REMINDERS . . .

Progress reports will be sent home via backpacks on March 12th.

Also, Spring Break begins March 13th at 2:55. Classes will resume on March 24th.



# Kindergarten High Frequency Sight Words