



BRETON DOWNS ELEMENTARY
FEBRUARY 2012
Mrs. Eldersveld, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Dood

Dear Parents,

As we spent time assessing each student's individual progress for report cards, we were pleased with the growth that has been demonstrated thus far in the school year, and look forward to continued progress.

Science

We are beginning to work on our unit of earth's land and water.

Reading Workshop

This month our focus will be on biographies. We will learn about famous people in history and the important contributions they made in our world. Each child will be asked to select a famous person to research. We will supply you with a simple outline to follow. The children will write a short report and then present this in front of class. They are asked to dress like their famous person or have simple props that will enhance their report. More information will be coming regarding this project. It would help if you could assist your child in selecting a historical figure. We study Abe Lincoln in class and would prefer that your child select another famous person. We also ask the students to stay away from Martin Luther King Jr. and George Washington. These are also ones that we go over in class.

Book Club

Every child should be reading a minimum of 15 minutes per night. It helps us if you remind your child to record on their recording sheets and make sure homework books are here on Monday as we have parent volunteers in each classroom who help the children compute and record their minutes. This can and should be a fresh start for those children who have not participated faithfully in our reading program.

Spelling

The children are becoming stronger with their spelling application. We would hope to see the "no excuse" words spelled correctly in their everyday writing as well as on their spelling tests. They can be writing sentences at home as a way to apply their skills here. Creating sentences helps the child develop their thoughts and is a way to focus on legibility.

Writing

During writing workshop we have been writing paragraphs. We are hoping that the students will write a topic sentence, three supporting details, and a closing sentence. Some of the students have enjoyed this format while others have found it more challenging. Please try to practice paragraphing in their homework books, too.

Math

Our daily problem solving opportunities are certainly helping children think about strategies. They are becoming quite good at drawing pictures or stating in words how they solved the problem. Opportunities for them to solve problems would be great. The students also do a math graph each week. When the chance comes up, show them graphs that you encounter at home or in the newspaper.

Many children are ready to move on to the higher addition and subtraction facts. In fact, there are some students who will be doing some work with multiplication. Card games, dice toss, and good old flash cards are all helpful ways to review. Simple incentives such as trying to beat their record of how many facts they can complete in a minute would be great practice.

We are also hoping you will have your child practice telling time and counting coins at home.

One Hundredth Day of School

Mrs. Eldersveld and Mrs. Dood will be celebrating this day on **February 16**. **Mrs. Gould** will be celebrating on **February 15th**. Please have your child dress comfortable and bring a book and pillow. We will be reading for 100 minutes. We also have some other fun activities planned. They may also bring in a favorite stuffed friend to read along with them ☺

Social Studies

We will be concluding our study of economics which focuses on the restaurant. Our new thematic study will be looking at maps and landforms.

Important Dates

February 7	2nd Grade Restaurant opens at lunchtime (<i>Attire Dark pants and white shirt for children preferred, dress clothes for hosts and cashiers</i>)
February 10	Breton Carnival in the evening
February 14	Valentine's Parties 2:15-3:15 p.m.
February 15, 16	100 th Day of School
February 23-24	Mid-Winter Break---No School

***Needed: **Card tables to use for our restaurant**

Please bring to school **Friday, February 3** with your name indicated underneath the table. Thanks!

******Your child also needs a medium sized plain colored or white gift bag (approximately 8 x10 ½ in.) for a Valentine project. Please send into school by Feb. 6.**

Michael's Discount Coupon
Altoid containers

****Please use the class list that is in the Breton directory so that your child can begin addressing their valentines. You can find it in the front. They may begin bringing them to school next week to deliver in their friend's mailbags. They need to all be in by Monday, February 13.**

Book Order

You may order from all clubs or one club, but all orders are due Friday, **February 10**. To order, make checks payable to **SCHOLASTIC**, or send cash. You can make out one check. You don't have to do individual checks for each order. Enclose the order in an envelope with your child's name on it and the name of the book club.

Remember that these books can be picked up at school if you would like to use them as a present, just note this on the book offer slip.

Happy Reading!
