

Friday, March 7, 2008

Dear Parents:

This has been an exciting week! We have begun our thematic unit of study about Japan. We have learned that Japan is far from Eureka. It is a small country with many people. The children have colored a map of Japan and they know that it is made of many islands. Your child is able to distinguish the flag of Japan. He/she can even draw it for you! We made rice balls today because rice is an important food in Japan.

The Big and Little Book was My Japan Counting Book. The Read Aloud book was A Carp For Kimiko. The KinderFriends book was Where Are We Going? Japan. The Phonics Library book was Big rig. The Social Studies Link Book was Just Like Me.

In my room, I have a bulletin board to display the high frequency words that the children have learned. These "sight words" are words that they do not know the letter sounds for. With these words, we use the "say-spell-say" method. Your child says the word, spells the word, and says the word again to practice it. So far, we have learned, go, to, a, my, I, like, here, see, have, for, is, and and. Have your child teach you how to "say-spell-say".

I can tell which students are practicing reading their books every night! The books we are using in "Rainbow Circle" are going to get harder and harder and harder. It is extremely important that your child reads 20 minutes every night. Part of that time should be spent reading not only this week's KinderRoots books, but they should also be practicing past week's books. Rereading a familiar book helps the child build fluency, and helps them to become a better reader.

Your child should be able to sound out many three letter words using the "stretch and read" method. They make each letter sound individually and then say the sounds faster and finally say the word. Examples of these consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words are; big, dig, pig, bat, sat, fit, kit, man, can, van, etc. When reading these words with your child at home, check to make sure that he/she is sounding out the letter sounds of the words that they don't know, but should be capable of sounding out (CVC words).

Do you know someone who has a 4 or 5 year old? Pass the word; it's that time of year... South Bay Union School District is now accepting kindergarten registrations. Registration packets can be picked up at the school office. There will be a kindergarten orientation for parents of prospective kindergarten students on Wednesday, March 12 at 2:00 pm at Pine Hill School in Room 9. Childcare will be provided for the prospective students in Room 10 during the orientation.