

**Winter
2012**



Principal's Newsletter

Dear Families,

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful break with your children! The weather outside has been brisk, but it has heated up inside the doors of Old Bethpage! Our first graders will be learning about penguins, second graders have been working on becoming better mathematicians, and third and fourth graders are deeply involved in the writing process.

During a PTA meeting this fall Mrs. Hoffman and I began discussing the Common Core Standards and how it relates to writing. We held a parent workshop modeling simple ways parents can support students at home. One of the major changes in the New York State Common Core Learning Standards is the shift to informational texts at all grade levels. During the school year your child will be reading, writing, and listening to many stories, but they will encounter many informational books and magazines as well. All of our students have been learning about non-fiction/informational texts, and will continue throughout the year. You can support your child's learning from home by asking questions about the reading and writing they are doing in school.

Some examples include:

What are the important facts about ___ ?
What is true about _____ ?
What can you can tell me about _____ ?

What were the important points made in this book?
How did the illustrations/captions/diagrams/photos help you understand the book/text?
What do you know about this topic that you can tell me?

When your children are writing you can ask the following:

What are you studying in writing? (Possible answers may include narrative, persuasive, informative, poetry, feature article, memoir, how to books)
What topic did you select for writing? Can you tell me the story you would like to write? Can you tell it across five fingers?
Can you add some sensory details to your writing? (What did you see, hear, smell, touch, etc.)
What emotions were you feeling when this happened? How can we let the reader know how you felt?

I will be hosting additional parent workshops in the spring on ways you can help your child at home. I hope this helpful!

Enjoy the cold weather- stay warm!

Mrs. Gray

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan.. 16th Martin Luther King: No school
Jan. 31st Bully Presentation for all parents in the district (7:30 PM Old Bethpage All Purpose Room)