

January 23, 2012

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Last week we did an experiment to see if we could make frost form on a can. We used crushed ice and salt. It took about 2 and half hours for frost to form on the can but it was fun to watch this happen. We decided to check the can every hour and the children really kept an eye on the clock to tell me when an hour was up. On Friday, when the temperature was only 11 degrees, I thought it would be interesting to see how long it would take to freeze water. We took a tin can, plastic cup, and paper cup and filled them with equal amounts of water. We placed them outside by the doors nearest to our room and check on them every hour. In the first hour, there was a thin film of ice on the water in the can but none on the other two glasses. In two hours, there was a film on all of the containers of water. We could see a water bubble that formed under the ice in the tin can. At that point, it moved around. By lunchtime, the water bubble did not move anymore. In the two glasses, there was a little thicker layer of ice. We then left the containers out in the cold until the end of the day. Each container had a layer of ice on top with water underneath. The tin can had the thickest layer of ice. When we took the ice out of the containers and turned them upside down, they looked like drinking glasses. We felt that the metal in the can helped that ice freeze deeper than the cups.

In math, we finished Chapter 4 and are moving onto Chapter 5. We will now be working with two digit numbers and learning which number is in the tens place and which number is in the ones place. We will also start learning to group ten ones and turn them into a ten. We have practiced this idea with money so hopefully it won't seem to strange to the children. Also, this is the starting point for regrouping with addition and subtraction. We are working on the Rocket Math every day. If you can help your child practice at home, that really helps and gives them confidence.

In reading, we are working on blends in words and will shortly begin learning about long vowel sounds. We have been working on nouns and have introduced verbs as action words. This week we will begin talking about the possessive "s". Please continue to help your child practice the weekly spelling words.

We spent time studying and learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We are currently working on a picture in Project 120 that is about Peaceful Heroes which includes Dr. King, Mahatma Gandhi, Doctors without Borders, Wangari Maathi (a woman who has planted

trees all over Africa), and a drawing of your child. We will now spend some time learning about Chinese New Year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Mrs. Sandala