

## FIRST GRADE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed your child's first publication in zoology. The porifera is a deceptively simple animal. It spends its very long life attached to a rock or other stationary object under the sea. However, not being able to move to escape danger does not mean it is vulnerable to the many predators in the water. Ask your child what happens when a hungry predator tries to have a bite of porifera for lunch.

As we move on to the next evolutionary level we see an amazing movement towards freedom. The Cnidaria (nie-dair-ia) is a very mobile animal that is well prepared to defend itself and to also feed itself; and it is a great friend to have if you are small enough to hide among stinging tentacles especially if you have the good fortune to be immune to the cnidaria's sting.

Jellies are probably the most famous members of the Cnidaria family, but they also have cousins that share the same deadly sting. Sea anemones are similar to the porifera in that they, too, spend their lives attached to a rock. However, they have one advantage over the porifera in that sea anemones have arms (with stingers, of course) that reach out and paralyze nearby prey and bring it into its body. Your child will be making one (or more) sea anemone models to decorate a wall or ledge in your home. (btw... these flower-like animals prefer living in groups.)

Now ... back to jellies. We saw a beautiful movie titled, "Jellies" produced by the Monterey Bay Aquarium that revealed the real world of Jellies in all their spectacular shapes, colors, and sizes. We also had a demonstration of how jellies move. Be sure to ask your child what makes an umbrella like a Jelly.

Back to the world of academia ... Most of the class is progressing well with addition. Please remember how important it is to practice math facts with your child. You would be surprised how much progress can be made with daily practice for just 5 - 10 minutes. We have also reached our goal of learning all about the Noun Family (article, adjective, noun.) Please be sure that your child correctly places the proper symbols on the spelling sentences. If your child has any mistakes on the spelling sentences, time will be available during recess for him or her to correct them.

We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 with a viewing of "River Dance." We are planning to have treats but we never know what the clever Leprechauns will do to leave their mark on the festivities. Be sure to ask your child what surprises we encounter.

Excitement is building for the Ice Cream Party which our class won from the See's Candy sales. We'll have it as soon as we get some warm weather and let you ahead of time which day it will be.

Toni Tomacci

### **MARCH CALENDAR**

**Mon-Fri Mar 2-6** - Dr. Seuss Days! - bring a Dr. Seuss book to share

**Thurs & Fri Mar 12 - 13** - Parent Teacher Conferences  
No classes; Day Care available 7:30-6:00

**\*Mon March 16\*** - Re-enrollment forms due for 2020-2021

**Tues March 17** - St. Patrick's Day - All classes wear green!

**Thur March 19** - 1st Grade's Parent-Child Night, 6-7 pm

**Fri March 20** - First Day of Spring -free dress if you wear pastel colors or something with flowers on it

**Mon March 23** - Fairyland Puppet Theatre's Performance of *Peter and the Wolf*, for Kdg - 3rd

**Thurs March 26** - Baseball Day! All classes celebrate opening of the new Season  
Wear a team shirt or cap

**Mon March 30** - Observing Cesar Chavez Day, No classes/No Daycare