



January 16, 2004

Room 27 News

Math

Subtraction, subtraction, subtraction is what we have been working on this week. After reviewing how to build, decompose, and rebuild numbers using base-10 blocks, we practiced solving subtraction problems with two-digit numbers with and without regrouping the tens and ones. (You may remember regrouping as "borrowing," which is what this strategy was called when I was in elementary

school!) Practicing subtraction with the base-10 blocks helps your child remember why the regrouping strategy "works." When students can understand WHY they cross out the 3 in the tens place, write a 2 next to it, and add 10 to the number in the ones place before subtracting, they are on their way to developing important concepts of number sense and place value.

Reading

We are back in the routine of meeting with small groups during Reader's Workshop. Small groups help Mrs. Young and I to best meet your child's needs and give all students more individual attention and support. Every day, both Mrs. Young and I meet with two small groups each to work on guided reading and word attack skills.

During our large group reading time, we read a wonderful story about a boy who helps his mother and father in their bakery and decides to bake something to take to his school for International Day. The story is called "Jalapeno Bagels," and you can help reinforce your second grader's comprehension skills by asking him or her to do a retell of this story for you over the weekend.



Writing

New \$100 words flocked to our classroom by the dozens this week! A \$100 word is a word that creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind. We find \$100 words as we read, add them to the list in our classroom, and use them in our writing to make it better. The challenge this week is to use one new \$100 word each day.

See if your second grader can find all of the \$100 words in this sentence:

"My mischievous teddy bear swiftly tumbled out of bed to fetch a scrumptious midnight snack."

Questions to ask your 2nd grader about "Jalapeno Bagels":

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the important people in the story?
- How does the boy help his mother and father at the bakery?
- What does he decide to bring to school for International Day?
- Why does he choose to bring jalapeno bagels to school?

(Make sure the retell has a beginning, a middle and an end!)

IMPORTANT REMINDER: NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, JAN. 19! (Also see reverse side)