

Sheridan - February 1, 2010

January was a productive and exciting month of learning in our enrichment groups. The kindergartners, 1st graders, and 2nd graders all worked diligently toward higher level thinking skills and their best work possible.

The kindergartners have continued making new words and playing lots of word games to build their reading skills. They played a new game, Bananagrams, to practice building words into crossword puzzles. They have also enjoyed figuring out letter puzzles and riddles from the Tin Man Press publications. In math, the children have practiced writing number sentences using 3 numbers and a combination of addition and subtraction. I also introduced two new games, A Head Full of Numbers and Math Jingo, to reinforce these concepts.

The first graders at Sheridan have been studying penguins, so we took this opportunity to read and write as much as possible about penguins. First, the children read about the Emperor Penguins and learned about the father penguin's responsibility to take care of the baby egg. The children then wrote stories from the father penguins perspective to describe how he felt and in turn show all they knew about the Emperor Penguin's life. The children also completed a compare and contrast penguin activity and then practiced measuring the size of penguins in centimeters and inches. In addition to measurement, the children also did penguin logical reasoning problems and guess and check the penguins weight activities in math.

In second grade, the students have focused on reading nonfiction passages and completing cause and effect activities. They have also continued writing narratives using a main idea, supporting sentences, lots of description with juicy words, and a strong closing sentence. The second graders have really expanded their knowledge of numbers in math by solving for exponents and using fractions and decimals in their problem solving. They have also just been introduced to algebra and found the game Niktu a great way to read and write algebra equations.

February will be an exciting month as we begin theme related activities for Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Dental Health.