



# Corbitt Connection

January 4, 2010



## Happy New Year!

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the holiday time and are off to a great start for 2010! Over the next week or so I will be working with your child to remind him/her of our classroom rituals and routines. I would like to thank you in advance for your support as we get back into the swing of things and have a fabulous 2010!

## Homework

It's back! Today your child is taking home his/her first set of homework for 2010. As a reminder, the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks is quickly coming to a close (last day is Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>). Be sure that your child has read, recorded, and RETURNED his/her reading logs as this is part of the weekly homework and his/her communication grade. Also, I would love to be able to call each child's name at our awards ceremony for having met the book goal.

## Reading Level

As we are approaching the end of the nine weeks I will be testing your child's reading progress. In order for your child to be at "Satisfactory" timing for the end of the year goal of Level "I" your child should be reading on or above Level "E" at this time. See the box below for all of the factors used to determine your child's reading level.

## "What Can I Do at Home?"

As you know our reading level goal for the end of the year is "I." There are several factors that are considered when determining your child's reading level. The factors include reading accuracy (words read correctly), reading fluency (the rate in which the words are read), intonation/inflection (does your child pay attention to punctuation and make appropriate pauses and voice changes), and finally reading comprehension. Reading comprehension is based on your child's retelling. An excellent retelling includes a lot of details in the appropriate sequence from the story. I would like to encourage you to practice retellings at home. ☺

## Writer's Workshop Update

This week we will begin our Persuasive writing genre. I am excited to see what the children will be able to do as they choose a topic and then defend their choice. I'll be sure to keep you posted on our progress.

## Reader's Workshop Update

This week I will be reading some great stories with examples of the "powers of persuasion." These stories will help build our schema so that we can use the techniques learned in our writing.

## Math Investigation Update

This week we will be working with fact families. (ex.  $3+2=5$ ,  $2+3=5$ ,  $5-2=3$  and  $5-3=2$ . We will use the "Magic Triangle" to see the relationship between the numbers and their inverse operations. We will also work on solving story problems with missing addends. It's sure to be a busy time in math.

In math skills we will be practicing money. As an incentive to learn how to use money I will be opening a class store!

## Skills Block

This week spelling is back! We will also be exploring "silent e," counting the phonemes (sounds) of words, contractions and antonyms. I have planned several activities to help your child learn how to make and break contractions.

## Important Dates to Remember

January 6	Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m.
January 18	No School-Dr. M. L. King Day
January 20	Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m.
January 21	Last day of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> nine weeks
January 22	No School-Teacher Planning Day