



# First Grade Literacy Life

JANUARY 19, 2016



Dear Room 126 Families,

We are looking forward to reading all about animals this week and next week! Our class will focus on the following questions "How are animals the same and different?" as a guide for our discussions. We will explore grouping animals by size, habitat, and even food preferences. First we will read the informational text *Animal Groups* and the students will learn more about fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Then they will learn about and compare how animals grow and change when we read *An Elephant Grows Up*, *A Harbor Seal Pup Grows Up*, and a *Kangaroo Joey Grows Up*. The students will work on identifying the main idea and important details, reacting to new information and asking questions. They will also think about how and why authors use labels, sections, and headings to organize information.

Have fun reading together!  
Martha Orso

## Word Wall Words

1/19-1/22

- ◆ red
- ◆ white
- ◆ black
- ◆ think
- ◆ there

1/25-1/29

- ◆ very
- ◆ know
- ◆ out
- ◆ open
- ◆ new

## Spelling Words

1/19-1/22

- ◆ gave
- ◆ brave
- ◆ shape
- ◆ late
- ◆ make

1/25-1/29

- ◆ time
- ◆ kite
- ◆ drive
- ◆ stripe
- ◆ mice

## Vocabulary

- ◆ amphibian
- ◆ reptile
- ◆ mammal
- ◆ herd
- ◆ roam

## Reading Strategies

- ◆ **The Essential Question**—How are animals the same and different?
- ◆ **Identify main idea and important details**—Explain how the information is connected to the main idea.
- ◆ **Non-Fiction Text Features**—Identify the glossary, headings, labels, and sections and explain why they are important and helpful when reading.

## Writing

Last week we created lists of topics that we know a lot about. The boys and girls will select one topic from their list to write a book all about an area of personal expertise. We'll focus on how informational writing is different than the writing we are used to writing. We'll be writing with a teaching voice instead of a storytelling voice. We'll also begin planning to write our books by telling the information across our fingers and sketching before we write.



## Activity to Do Together

Talk with your child about the animals we are reading about at school. Work together to develop a list of questions about an animal or group of animals that he/she is interested in learning more about. Do some research together. Then, help your child come to school prepared to share their new learning with our class. Some ways that your child could share: make a small book, create a poster with pictures and captions, print a picture and write a few notes with the new information, develop a list of questions and answers, make up some true and false statements that your child could present to the class. Have fun!