



First Grade Literacy Life JANUARY 4, 2016



Dear Room 126 Families,

During the next two weeks, our class will explore life under the sea and in the rain forest. We will read informational texts to learn about plants and animals that live in these habitats. We will also read a folktale called *How Leopard Got His Spots*. The children will learn to use **text features** such as titles, headings, captions, and diagrams. Smart readers use these features to enhance their understanding of the text content.

Best wishes to you in the New Year!

Martha Orso

Word Wall Words

1/4-1/8

- ♦ live
- ♦ where
- ♦ their
- ♦ off
- ♦ on

1/11-1/15

- ♦ blue
- ♦ green
- ♦ yellow
- ♦ brown
- ♦ down

Spelling Words

1/4-1/8

- ♦ ship
- ♦ shell
- ♦ which
- ♦ when
- ♦ fish

1/11-1/15

- ♦ thick
- ♦ then
- ♦ graph
- ♦ thorn
- ♦ this

Vocabulary

- ♦ view
- ♦ companion
- ♦ gracefully
- ♦ exchange
- ♦ portion
- ♦ tumbled

Reading

- ♦ The Essential Question—Why do authors write stories?
- ♦ Comprehension Strategies
Infer – Use text details to infer the author's purpose. Infer character motives based upon their actions.

Text Features—Using text features to enhance comprehension.

Writing

In writing workshop, the first graders will begin to explore ways we write to inform others. We'll begin our new year by writing *nonfiction*. First the children will examine and read a variety of *nonfiction* books to learn how these books are structured and to identify special features that these books may have. Later on, each child will incorporate some of these structures and features in their own books that will teach others all about topics of interest.

Activities to Do Together

- ♦ Folktales are old stories people tell. Ask a family member to share a folktale they know with you. It could be a story they know from childhood, or a family story.
- ♦ Log onto *National Geographic Kids* "animals" page and learn more about sea animals and rainforest creatures. Share your new learning with the class.