



Dear Parents,

We are starting our new unit in Writing Workshop, which is information writing about science. The Common Core calls for first graders to "write informative or explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure." In this unit we rally students to integrate all they know about writing informational texts to show their understanding of science topics. In the classrooms we are studying *Properties of Matter*, such as solids, liquids and gases. This unit provides children with opportunities to use writing to engage in the work scientists do—developing and testing hypothesis, gathering data and studying information for patterns. In the classroom we are setting up science centers and the children are conducting experiments in the classroom and testing out theories just as scientists do. Our first grade scientists will learn to observe closely, make predictions and develop hypothesis, ask big questions, and to follow procedures to pursue these questions all while understanding that writing is a tool for learning. Please ask your child about all the exciting work they are doing as scientists and writers!

Sincerely,

The First Grade Teachers