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☺ **Important Dates in January** ☺

-First Friday-Reading: January 6<sup>th</sup>

-No School: January 16<sup>th</sup>

-Spirit Day-Lunar New Year: January 27<sup>th</sup>

SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Fiction Character Study	At home, please make sure your child is reading for 40 -45 minutes per night and logging it for accountability. Also, please make sure that while reading, in order to support the unit, they are focusing in on the character. They can think of their traits, their actions and any problems they are facing.
Writing	Baby Literature Essays	At home, please make sure that your child is creating opinion essays that convey their claim about a story that they are reading. Usually, your child will be bringing home a short text and need to flash draft in their notebook about that story. They can form claims about the theme, a characters traits, a problem the character faces, or how character influence each other.
Math	Division	At home, please ask your child what strategies they are using to solve division problems and how multiplication and division are related. If your child is still having trouble with multiplication they need to continue to practice and review each night using flash cards or math sites on the computer.
Science	Animal Adaptations	At home, please ask your child what they are learning about animal adaptation. The class is studying how organisms change to suit their environment and how those adaptations help them do what other animals cannot. They are also examining how the environment changes in ways that affect a places physical characteristics, temperature or availability of resources.
Social Studies	Geography: Country Study- Greece	At home, please allow your child to research on the internet about their class's far off country they will be focusing on. When researching, allow them to take an in depth look at the different aspects of culture: Traditions, Clothing, Holidays, Folklore, Economy, Government, Food and History.

**Focus of the Month: Writing**

The focus of this month's learning will be on Writing. Every month in Writing we focus in on a different genre of the written word. This month we will be diving even deeper into Opinion Essay Writing. In this unit, the children will be making a claim about a text in order to write a 'Baby Literature Essay'. In this type of writing, the children form a claim after they have closely read a text. From that text, they need to plan their writing with a Tree-Map where they choose a story element that they can support with text evidence. Some examples of claims your child can write about are: Theme, Character Traits, Problem, Adversities, Characters Influence, and Character Change. Once they have chosen an element, they must clearly state their opinion, provide three reasons for that opinion that come *from the text*, as well as, examples that support those reasons *from the text*. This writing unit supports our Reading unit, ELA State Test that they will be completing in April, as well as, Interim Testing throughout the year. Please make sure that your child is going back into the text in order to prove their claim. In every writing unit, we use many devices that can be found in your children's folders nightly, which will help them write independently at home. In school, we provide them with mentor texts which explicitly show them how to model their writing, 'child friendly checklists' that can remind them what they need to include or have already included in their writing, as well as, conferencing notes where the teacher has given meaningful feedback on the revisions for their drafts. These can also be helpful to you as their parent and give you insight on how their writing should look.