

February 4, 2013

Dear Parents,

Time for an update on what your child will be studying this month, and events that will be happening in room 20.

Please put on your calendars that **Terra Nova testing takes place the week of February 25-March 1**. A good breakfast is important since the testing will be the first activity each day. Thank you!

Math

Geometry standards covered: name and describe geometric figures, measure angles, identify symmetry, and similar and congruent polygons. We will continue to do **Hands-on-Equations** once a week and **problem solving activities** daily. **Fractions** are our focus now and students will be tested on Topic 9 on Thursday, Feb. 7th. Finding common denominators is the skill that most students need to practice. Next, we will cover **Perimeter and Area** using Topic 12 as our resource. I will continue to send home math practice and review homework.

Language Arts

Reading Street We read "Exploding Ants" in Unit 4 last week, and this week the story is "The Stormi Giovanni Club." Please continue reading the new story with your child each Monday night if you want to help prepare them for the comprehension assessments. **Grammar and Usage skills:** this week is *indefinite and reflexive pronouns* and next week is *using who and whom*. Spelling words are introduced for each new story.

Writing We are learning about different types of poetry. Students are writing poetry and learning to use different techniques and tools to improve their writing. Students created a figurative language booklet in the computer lab to learn about the techniques that are used in all types of writing.

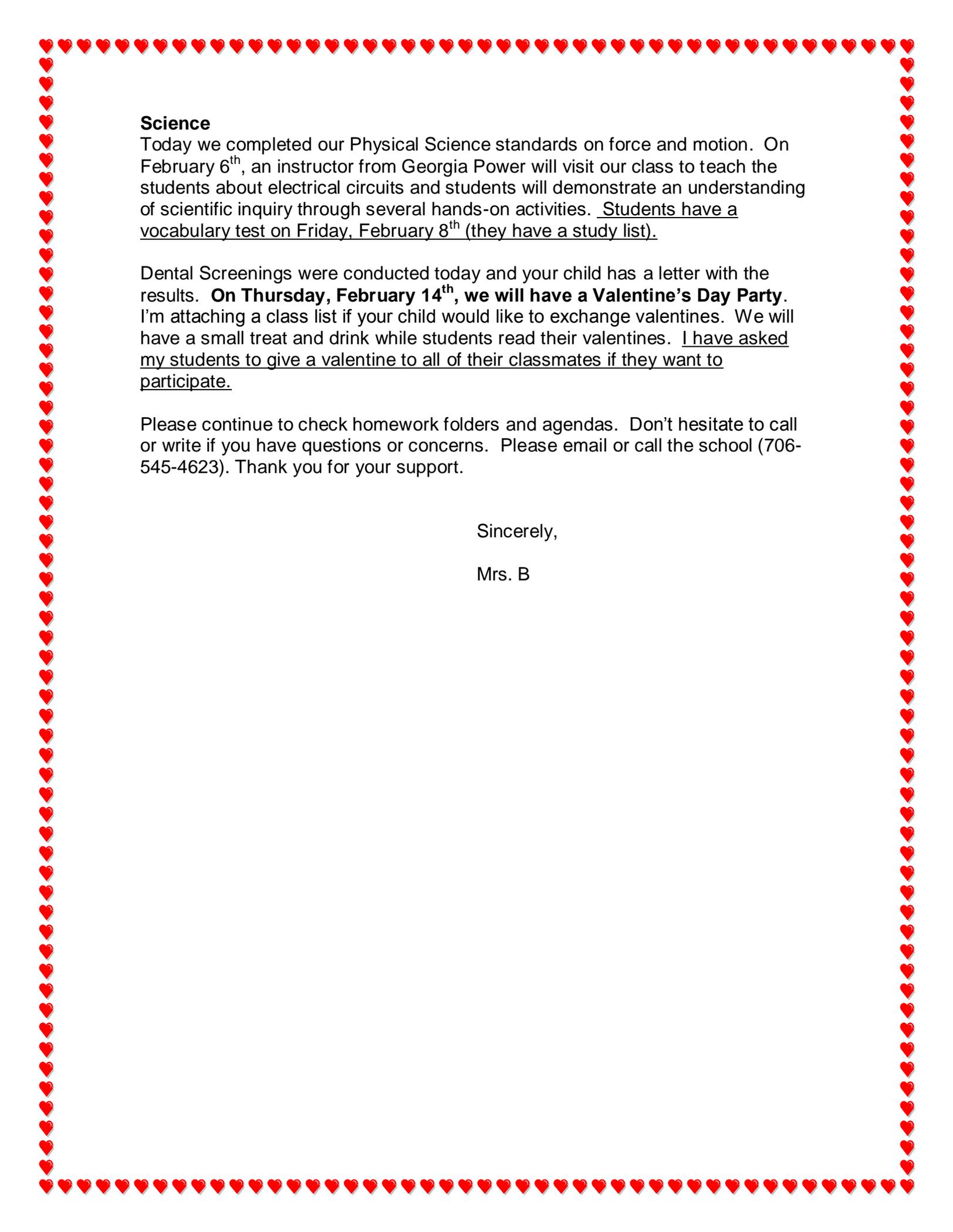
Independent reading is very important! The school is working toward 30,000 reading counts points. Reading counts really helps to improve comprehension and motivation! Students are required to read two chapter books (on their reading level) and pass the RC tests each month (minimum). The highest scores are part of their reading grade each month. Encourage your child to read every evening.

Social Studies

We have learned about the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Standard **5SS5: Students explain the causes of the American Revolution.**

Students are researching a topic for a class timeline book. They will also create a drawing to illustrate their topic of research. Students have a vocabulary list and will be tested on Thursday, February 7th.

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Science

Today we completed our Physical Science standards on force and motion. On February 6th, an instructor from Georgia Power will visit our class to teach the students about electrical circuits and students will demonstrate an understanding of scientific inquiry through several hands-on activities. Students have a vocabulary test on Friday, February 8th (they have a study list).

Dental Screenings were conducted today and your child has a letter with the results. **On Thursday, February 14th, we will have a Valentine's Day Party.** I'm attaching a class list if your child would like to exchange valentines. We will have a small treat and drink while students read their valentines. I have asked my students to give a valentine to all of their classmates if they want to participate.

Please continue to check homework folders and agendas. Don't hesitate to call or write if you have questions or concerns. Please email or call the school (706-545-4623). Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. B