**Mrs. Slocum’s Room**

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**Aloha News**

**Mr. Schneiderhan Puts the “Spotlight” on Writing!**

Mr. Schneiderhan has created an opportunity for Central students to celebrate writing! Each month I will choose 4 stories from students written during writing workshop, stories that show evidence of the lessons and skills I’ve taught in my mini-lessons. Mr. Schneiderhan will pick 2 quality stories from each class (anonymous) to be read aloud in the auditorium, using the microphone and spotlight! Certificates will be awarded for all 4 students whose stories were chosen!

**The 1st “Spotlight” will be on Friday, December 2!**

On the back of this newsletter, you’ll find a checklist we’re using during Writer’s Workshop. These are the elements I will base my choice for the “Top 4” student stories!

**Writing Workshop Volunteers**

**I’m still looking for volunteers who are able to help during Writing Workshop, which is from 8:15-9:15 every day. It’s a very easy way to volunteer and lend a helping hand, allowing me to spend more individualized time with writers. Please let me know if you’re available to help during Writing Workshop, whether it’s 1 day a week, 1 day a month, or daily!**

**I’ve had to start looking for volunteers outside of our classroom.**

**Investigating Science**

We continue to study the Properties of Matter and Mixtures. This week we’ll be studying the difference between objects composed of a single substance and objects composed of more than one substance. We’ll also be comparing the volume of liquids using common measuring tools!

**Send in those BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION! We’re competing in a contest to collect the most Box Tops! Wednesday is the FINAL day for the month of November!**

**Book Orders are due on FRIDAY!**

**If you’re placing an order for Christmas, please remember to indicate that to me on the envelope with your order!**

**The Daily 5**

**One of our newest Café’ Strategies is to “Look at the Picture…Do the Words and Pictures Match?” This strategy is one that good readers use when stumbling on a word that doesn’t sound right or make sense. Illustrations can provide hints for students, helping them decode words. Sometimes students feel like they are “cheating” when they have to use the pictures, but this is NOT at all true. You can encourage your child by reading with him/her at home, taking “picture walks” through a story before reading. Often, looking at the illustrations before reading will give students the oral vocabulary before the written vocabulary.**

**In addition, 2nd graders continue to work on choosing “Good-Fit” Books…books they can read with nearly 100% accuracy. Please encourage your child to read aloud to you on a regular basis so that you can monitor your child’s reading choices at home.**

**2nd Quarter Spelling**

Be sure to look in your child’s Mail Folder for the spelling “quiz” we took last week. This spelling assessment includes a few words that should’ve been mastered during the first marking period (could, their, when). Look and see if your child is still spelling the “old” words correctly!