

News for You

We WILL have school on Monday January 19th. This is a make up day.

Movie Night

2nd grade will be hosting movie night in February. We will need volunteers to make this a special night for all Weston students. It looks like we will be using February 13th as our date this year. Just keep this in the back of your mind, and I will send out more detailed information as we get closer to the day.

Valentine's Day List

I will be sending home class lists for Valentine's Day. We will celebrate in the classroom on February 13th. I will also be sending home information to those of you who have volunteered to donate items. If you are unable to purchase Valentine's Day cards, please let me know ASAP and I can provide you with some.

mClass Testing

We will be conducting our Middle of the Year mClass reading tests next Tuesday and Friday. If possible, please do not schedule any appointments on these dates. Thank you!

Weekly Specials

Monday	PE	8:40
Tuesday	PE	9:10
Wednesday	Music	8:40
Thursday	Music	8:10
	Art	8:40
Friday	Library	9:00
Recycling (Every Monday)		11:00

Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan. 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968



Easy Reading Strategies for Parents to Use at Home

Part VII and Conclusion

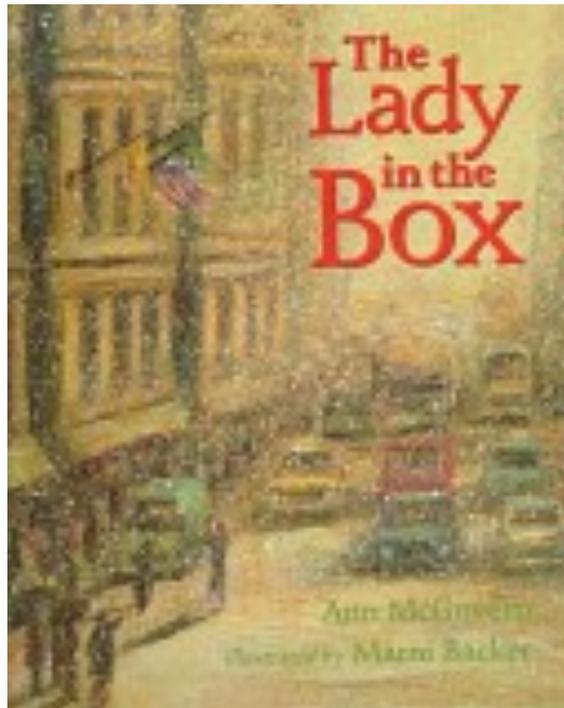
Compare Authors' Books: Have your child read two books by the same author. It is a good idea for you to read them too so you can discuss them. Compare how they are similar and how they are different. Which did you and your child like best? Why?

Most important, remember to keep your reading activities at home stress free. Use mistakes as teachable moments. If your child gets tired of reading, take turns, or take a break. For most elementary aged students about fifteen to twenty minutes of reading at least three days a week is a good place to begin. If your child wants more time, then allow that to happen. If your child becomes frustrated, and has difficulty focusing for that amount of time, shorten the time, and consider a shorter text or a lower reading level. Establish a cozy and nurturing environment when reading. A bed time snuggle or a mid-afternoon read on the porch swing are some ideas. Involve your child in planning your reading sessions, and enjoy your time together as you get ready for school and get ready to read.

The Lady in the Box by Ann McGovern

Ben, who appears to be about eight, describes how he and his sister bring food to a homeless woman, Dorrie, thereby bending their mother's rules about talking to strangers--or at least interpreting them widely. Their mother catches on to the missing food and warm scarf: ``Okay, let's see your lady in the box,`` she says. All Dorrie wants is to be allowed to sleep over the warm grate near the deli, whose owner has chased her away; Ben's mother appeals to the owner's sense of charity and Dorrie is restored to her spot. Further, the children start serving food at a neighborhood soup kitchen. Realistic and believable, the story intro-

duces a vast world of homelessness in simple, telling details that are enlarged upon in the art, e.g., a particularly effective picture



shows that the people in the soup line are only too accustomed to waiting. Backer uses various techniques to delineate the tone of every scene, sometimes loosely sketching a detail in a thick application of oil paint, sometimes using small, dense flecks to depict snow and the frigid isolation of the conditions outdoors. For readers who witness homelessness every day, the book answers questions, carrying the message that even for large problems, small efforts can make a difference.