A Few Notes on Journal Writing

In class, students are asked to write on a variety of topics. They are encouraged to write non-fiction, fiction, personal narratives, or Instructional pieces (e.g. how to carve a pumpkin). The focus is on the use of temporal words).

The expectation is that students should be able to write 7-10 detailed sentences mid Gr.2. We encourage students to use conjunctions and adjectives to add more depth to their written work. We are encouraging students to go beyond simple sentences such as, “I like winter break.” Rather, we would suggest they write, “I like winter break because I can play in the snow and build an amazing snow fort.”

We also encourage students to place a focus on editing. When they have completed their written work, they are asked to edit for: mechanics (capitals, periods, and correct spelling), juicy words (adjectives), have they written a minimum of 5-7 detailed sentences?

Students are familiar with the concept of completing a 4-point check: Do you have a capital, punctuation, does the sentence make sense, and are the words spelled correctly?

Sometimes students use a highlighter in their word work that places an emphasis on editing grammatical sentences, and they could also use this strategy to edit their work in their writing completed at home.

Our goal is to continue to foster the writing process. It is an expectation that we will begin to write simple paragraphs by mid-end Gr. 2.

There are other components to student writing that we place an emphasis on in class. The intent of this note is to help support writing in the home for students who could benefit from additional practice. We hope that this provides you with a little more understanding of some of the expectations for grade level writing. As the year progress, student expectations will increase with regard to their overall output.