



Grade 2 News

December 5, 2011

Just a few notes as we end this busy time of year...

Holiday Hope-Thank you so much to all who contributed to our second grade service project. The response was overwhelming! Thanks to the generosity of our East Fairhaven School families, two other families will have a much brighter holiday!

Holiday Party- Our holiday party is planned for Thursday, December 22nd. We are planning to have a “picnic” like some countries in the southern hemisphere. This year we are asking the children to wrap a shoebox or small box like a present. They may decorate it as they wish. The top should be wrapped separately so that it can be removed easily. Inside the box they may pack a drink (no soda and no glass please), a sweet treat and a salty snack. They may add a straw, a fancy napkin, etc. to make it special. This will be their picnic for the party. A cool treat will be provided.

Cards- If your child would like to exchange cards with his classmates, that is fine. ***Please do not have him put names on the envelopes.*** Delivering the cards is quite a lengthy process. Please do not send the cards in until Monday, December 19th. There are twenty-two students in the class.

Social Studies Projects- Our “Holiday Traditions Around the World” project reports will begin on December 8th. I am always amazed at the obvious time and effort spent in the preparation of the students’ posters. Please remember to practice locating the country on a map and naming the continent where the country can be found. The children will also be asked to present their poster and tell about the traditions of the country they chose.

Please let me know if you are planning to come in to assist your student with his or her presentation. We can arrange a time that is most convenient for you. Thanks for your help with this project.

Reading and Writing- The students have begun unit 3 in our basal. The theme is creativity and invention.

The students are using the rhythm and rhyme pattern in *People, People Everywhere* to write a holiday/winter poem. So far, they look good!

The students will also be busy writing letters to Santa. Rather than list all the items they hope Santa will bring, the students will be thinking about a wish for their families and a wish for the world. We will discuss the fact that the best gifts do not always come from a store.

A nice way to unwind from all the hustle and bustle of the season is to cuddle up with your child and read a story. I just completed a round of progress monitoring and I was happy to see how fluently the students are reading- they have made a lot of progress! If you haven't listened to your child read lately, please try to find a few minutes. They are proud of their progress and would love to "show off".

However, I have noticed that some students are having difficulty responding to questions after reading only one or two pages. It is extremely important that children understand that reading words alone does not make a good reader. The students really need to focus on what they're reading and its meaning. Ask different kinds of questions about what they read. The answer to some questions should be able to be found in the text. The students should need to ***think*** about other questions. An example might be: What do you think caused the character to act in that way? What does that tell you about the character? What would you have done? If you are reading a chapter book together, ask your child to tell you what has happened in the story so far before you read the next part.

Spelling and Phonics-

Skills stressed in this unit include long a: ai and ay spellings; long e: e,ea,ee and y spellings and long o, spelled oa, and ow.

Students will also name and identify verbs in sentences. At this point a verb is defined as an action word. Subject-verb agreement as well as verb tenses will be practiced.

Math- The students are completing Chapter 4 of the math text this week. They are working on solving two step addition and subtraction problems as well as completing addition and subtraction tables.

Chapter 5 focuses on place value, counting patterns, number sequence, comparing numbers using $<$ and $>$ symbols, and rounding to the nearest ten.

In geometry, the students are studying quadrilaterals. They are beginning with the attributes of squares. Students should be able to state the number of lines and angles that are congruent (equal), the number of pairs of parallel lines, and the number of lines of symmetry for each shape.

Again, mastery of addition and subtraction facts is extremely important this year. Several students have shown great improvement in their Mad Minute scores. Others really need to continue to study and practice.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 6th- B day

Wednesday, December 7th- PTO meeting 3:30 pm

Tuesday, December 13th- Gingerbread House Workshop

Wednesday, December 14th- Winter Concert 9:15am and 1:00PM

Friday, December 16th- Polar Express Night 6-8pm

Thursday, December 22nd- Holiday Party

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday, and a healthy, joy-filled New Year!