

News From the Top

December 7, 2011

As the holidays are approaching, we would like to thank each and every parent for ALL that you do. Whether it is for your child, to your child, in our classroom, or for our classroom – We are very thankful to have such fabulous parental support from you. Thank you for trusting us with your child's education and giving us the opportunity to grow with your child. If we do not speak with you before the holiday – have a wonderful break with your families and Happy Holidays from our families to yours!



Curriculum

This week we will continue reading our novel, Sign of the Beaver, and students will continue with skills such as summarizing, character motives/traits, and compare & contrast relationships. Our goal is to finish the novel by Tuesday, Dec. 20th and have students take the AR test, which will count as a comprehension grade. There are still some students that are not reading an AR book or taking tests frequent enough. Please remind your child to read daily and to reach for their AR goal. In math students just finished learning about prime/composite, greatest common factors, divisibility rules, and prime factorization. These skills are now being put to use through simplifying, mixed numbers/fractions greater than 1, & adding/subtracting like fractions. In coming weeks students will be learning about adding/subtracting mixed numbers, fractions with unlike denominators, and how to compare and order fractions (cross multiplication). In addition, please encourage your child to utilize FCAT Explorer as often as possible. There will be plenty of time over a long two week vacation! In science we are

continuing our studies of adaptations. Students are learning about the various habitats (biomes) and the living things that adapt to them for survival. A Unit 10 test, Plant and Animal Adaptations, will be administered on Friday, Dec. 16th. Lastly, students will be taking Science Benchmark Assessment tomorrow (Thursday). Please be sure that your child comes in focused and well rested.

Science Fair

Congratulations to all of our fifth graders for doing such a fantastic job on their projects! We were very proud of each and every one of the students for their time and effort preparing for the fair. Parents, we know this takes time and is very demanding, but your support and help throughout the entire scientific process was evident with the students' final outcomes. Thank you parents and great job boys and girls!!!

Holiday Feast/Celebration

The fifth grades will be having a Traditional Holiday Feast or Pizza Feast on Wednesday, December 21st in each classroom. For the feast we would like each child to participate by bringing in something "traditional" from his/her family. What does your family enjoy during the holiday season? What dish do you save for this time of year? It can be a dessert, a main dish, a casserole, a punch/drink - whatever you would like to share with your classmates! If your child is in a classroom that will be doing the feast, a note will come home Monday, Dec. 12th, for you to sign up for a category. This will prevent us from receiving 20 dessert dishes... even though I'm sure the kids would not mind this at all (The teachers probably

wouldn't either ☺). Please return this slip ASAP so that we can begin organizing the information. A confirmation will be sent back to you to let you know what you are bringing for Wednesday's Feast. The feast will be around 12:30 in the classroom and we will be making crafts in the morning and afternoon as well. Also, your child will need to bring in a metal can to make our holiday craft. The medium sized (veggie can) works best. If anyone has extras we could always use a few! Please have the can as soon as possible (Friday the 16th at the latest) so that we may start spray painting them. In addition to the can, we are asking each child to bring in an age appropriate new/nearly new book for our Book Exchange on Wednesday the 21st. Please wrap the book and label it For: Boy, Girl, or Either on the outside wrapping. The students will exchange the books in the afternoon on the last day before break. Finally, each classroom will need parent helpers for both the Feast and the craft, SO if you can volunteer some time and holiday hands please contact your child's teacher! You all are awesome!

NEEDS..... ☺

The following materials are needed for the crafts that each child is making -

Santa Pencil Holder - **(Per classroom)**

- * 1 bag of red PomPoms (mini ones from the craft store for Santa's nose☺)
- * 1 bag of white PomPoms (mini ones for the end of Santa's hat☺)
- * 1 bag of small wiggly eyes
- * 2 feet of garland
- * 3 bottles of Tacky Glue
- * 3 cans of red spray paint

Let us know what you can help with☺

Thank you in advance !

Important Dates

* Wednesday, December 21st -

Traditional Holiday Feast/Pizza /Crafts
Book Exchange (Last day before break)

*Tuesday, January 3rd -Return from
break

* Friday, January 13th -Teacher Workday
(No School for students)

*Monday, January 16th - No School,
Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday

****Please be aware of the shortened days in January, due to the semester exams for our Secondary Schools. The following days dismissal will be at 1:40 - 1/10, 1/11, 1/12.

WWHHEEEWW! That sure was a long one....
As always, thank you for your support and have a wonderful holiday season!!!



The Fifth Grade Team

