

## December Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I can't believe we are already here with Christmas just around the corner! We have had such a great year so far and I am enjoying teaching your kiddos so much! They are a great group of children.

### Math

We have wrapped up our **Data Management Unit** which we will touch upon again in the near future and are now working on our **Fractions Unit**. The expectations are as follows:

- use drawings to represent, solve, and compare the results of fair-share problems that involve sharing up to 20 items among 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 sharers, including problems that result in whole numbers, mixed numbers, and fractional amounts
- represent and solve fair-share problems that focus on determining and using equivalent fractions, including problems that involve halves, fourths, and eighths; thirds and sixths; and fifths and tenths

We have been working on Fractions of a whole (area), fractions of a set (group), and fractions of other measures (capacity, mass and length). We will be doing fair shares and equivalent fractions as well. Equivalent fractions can be somewhat tricky, so some extra practice at home would be helpful.

### Language

We are working on **Persuasive Writing (features listed in November Newsletter)** and will move to **Narrative Writing** after Christmas. The children are also learning to self-edit and reflect on their written pieces. This means following the checklists for various pieces of writing and ensuring that all features are included in their own piece. If they discover that they are missing something, they are encouraged to add it into their final copy before it is corrected by the teacher.

The features included in a Narrative Piece of writing are as follows:

- My events are in order: beginning, middle and end
- I have included all of the Elements of a Story (Characters, Setting, Problem, At Least 4 Events, Solution)
- I used details and described events
- I used my author voice

- My story is easy to follow
- I used many long sentences using linking words
- I used the Word Wall and other resources to help me spell
- I used grammar, capitals and ending punctuation properly
- I used the past tense
- My writing is neat

As you may already know, we are doing a novel study. The novel that we are reading is **Charlotte's Web** and the children are loving it! We are reading it together in class and doing various activities as we read. At the end of each chapter, I have been giving a Multiple Choice Quiz.

When we finish *Charlotte's Web*, we will continue to read a variety of texts. The children are expected to answer comprehension questions, while making sure that they use enough detail from the story and their own thoughts to display comprehension of what was read. A major focus this term will be the Main Idea of a text. I often ask the children why the author wrote the story. Was there a purpose or a lesson to be learned? Please do this with your child when he/she reads at home. It gives a good idea of whether or not they are grasping what is really happening in the story. When your child reads at home, please continue to ask him/her to retell the story with as much detail as possible, ensuring that they include the **features/elements of a Narrative text: characters, setting, problem, sequence of events, and the solution**. You can also ask them to use transition words such as **First, Next, Then, After that** and **Finally** when they retell the story. Ask them questions about the story to see if they actually know what is taking place. These are all good exercises to see if your child understands the text. Often children can read lots of words, but this does not always mean that they are comprehending what they are reading.

I will be sending home some Writing and Math assessments very soon!

### Science

The next unit that we will focus on is our **Structures** unit.

### Religion

We will soon enter the season of **Advent**. We will be talking a lot about the birth of Christ in class and reading Bible stories along with other Christmas stories.

## Angel Tree

We have kicked off our annual Angel Tree Campaign this week. Please make sure to read the email from the school that was sent out on Tuesday, which lists all of the details for this year's campaign.

## Winter Attire

With winter quickly approaching and the cold weather upon us, please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately. Snow Pants, hats, mittens and a scarf are necessary. I will ask your child to wear what they come to school with, unless they have a note. **If you would like your child to make the choice of whether or not to wear their snow pants at recess and/or on the way home, please write down one single note in the agenda and I will let them make the decision.** Of course, if I feel that their decision is not reasonable on a particular day, I will advise them appropriately. Thanks!

## Twitter and Agendas

Please continue to look at my Twitter feed and at your child's agenda nightly for important announcements and reminders. Thank you!

I wish you all a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas and Holiday Season!

