

Sunday, December 11th, 2011

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

Here we are, at the last school week of the year! Please make sure to mark your calendar...we return from Christmas Break on **Wednesday**, January 4th.

This week is bookmobile week, so please have your child return their book to get a new one on Thursday.

Just a reminder...our classroom Christmas party will be held this Friday, December 16th, which is the final day of school before Christmas break. Our festivities will run from 2:15-3:30. We will have foods and a game as well as a gift exchange. Please send your child's wrapped gift exchange gift in on Tuesday the 13th or Wednesday the 14th. We will have a small poem reading, dedicated to our parents at the beginning of our party on the 16th at 2:20, so if you can join us, that would be great! We will also have presents to present to our parents. =)

Congratulations to our Character Winner this month: Wyollah Moses. She was voted the 2nd grader who exhibits the trait "This Is It!" most often. This means she lives in the moment, making the best of every day. "This Is It!" means remaining positive and keeping our chin up. Congratulations to our runners-up: McKayla Cole and Tessa Koehn.

On to our studies for the week. Our Imagine It! story this week is titled "Animal Camouflage." From this point forward, I will be breaking the Imagine It! story into two parts, so that it is more manageable for the re-read at home. I'll assign the first half of the story Tuesday night and the second half of the story Wednesday night. Please look in your child's planner each of those days to see which pages to read. Thanks!

Last week I added spelling lists to your child's sleeve in their binder. These lists will begin after Christmas break and get us through most of January. Please note that there will not be a spelling test on the day we return from break (that way you don't have to worry about studying over break).

In Core Knowledge Fiction, we will continue a unit on Tall Tales. Last week we learned the four characteristics of a tall tale and read Casey Jones. This week we will read Johnny Appleseed and Paul Bunyon.

Now that we are finished with our Westward Expansion unit in History, we'll be moving on to the Civil War! This week we will learn about the disagreements between the Northern and Southern states over slavery. We also learn about two enemies of slavery: Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman. And, we will learn about our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. We'll learn about his upbringing and adulthood, as well as about his feelings regarding slavery.

In math this week, we will tell and show time to the quarter hour, identify and show transformations (translations, rotations, and reflections), divide a set of objects into equal groups, and multiply by four. There will not be any homework over Christmas break. Just a note: students are not required to master their multiplication facts in 2nd grade. The multiplication we are doing is an introduction to the facts. We will be using tricks and different methods to help us remember the facts, but mastery is not expected in 2nd grade. =)

In Science, we will take an assessment over our Simple Machines unit. A study guide came home last week if you'd like to study with your child at home.

In writing, we will be working on a fun " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" activity that the children are sure to have a lot of fun with!

As for our Core Knowledge Sayings, we will discuss what "cold feet" and "get a taste of your own medicine" mean.

I think that is it for this week. Have a wonderful week!

Warmly,
Stacy Thompson