

Sunday, December 4th, 2011

Dear 2nd Grade Families,

How is it possible that we are already into the month of December? Amazing to think this school year is almost half over! We have two weeks remaining before Christmas break, and lots of exciting things to pack into that short amount of time!

Just a reminder that reading trackers are due Thursday the 8th. Most children have turned theirs in—thank you!!

This week is a library check-out week, so please have your child return their book to get a new one.

We will be holding our classroom Christmas party on 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. I'm asking that girls bring a gift for a girl and boys bring a gift for a boy. The price limit is \$10. If this is a hardship, please let me know and it will be taken care of. Please send the gift wrapped and addressed "To a girl/boy, From Your Child." Please send your child's gift exchange gift in the week of December 13th. The children will also be reciting a poem to their parents, as well as presenting their parents with a gift. We will do this at 2:20, so if you can join us, that would be great! There will be a sign-up sheet hanging in the hall if you can help provide any of the "goodies" for the food portion of our festivities.

On to our studies for the week. Our Imagine It! story this week is titled "Grandpa's Corner Store." It is quite lengthy, so I am going to break it up into two parts. I'll assign the first half of the story (pages 391-407) Tuesday night and the second half of the story (pages 408-421) Wednesday night.

There will not be a spelling test on Tuesday the 6th due to the monthly Orthographic test. We'll resume with Lesson 75B on Wednesday.

In Core Knowledge Fiction, we will begin a unit on Tall Tales. This is a fun unit that the kids should really enjoy! We'll begin by learning the four characteristics of a tall tale, which we'll learn through a power point presentation. We will then read Casey Jones, and determine if it fits the characteristics. As we read Casey Jones, we will take notes. These notes will just be a few words or phrases that help us remember important events from the story. We will then take these notes and put them into complete sentences, creating a summary paragraph of the story.

In Core Knowledge Poetry, we will be reading " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas." We will complete a fun and silly writing activity related to this poem as well!

We'll be discussing the Character Trait "This Is It!" this month. This trait means that we make the most of every moment.

In history, we will have an assessment over Westward Expansion this week. No need to study at home...we will do all the prep necessary in class. =)

In science this week, we continue our unit on simple machines. We'll learn about wheels and axles and pulleys. We will also learn that friction is produced when two surfaces are rubbed against one another and lubricants or rollers can reduce friction. We'll illustrate this point with a fun hands-on experiment.

In writing, we'll wrap-up our persuasive letters. We will also continue with classifying sentences in Shurley English.

I think that covers it for the week! Looks like we'll be in the ice box for a few more days! Stay warm and enjoy the week!

Warmly,
Stacy Thompson