

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Greetings, Parents!

One more week to go! Please remember that our Christmas party and gift exchange is this Friday at 2:15 p.m. There is a \$10 limit for the gifts. I ask that gifts NOT be gender specific and that they be delivered to school NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY. There should be no names listed on the gifts (either to or from). If you are unable to provide a gift, please let me know that by Wednesday as well.

This month's character focus is "This is it!" Our third grade winner for the month is Brooke Dowdy. Congratulations to Brooke for her ability to focus on the present! Third grade will be performing a short skit at the assembly to be held on Friday, December 16 at 8:00 a.m. Students should understand the importance of "living in the moment" for this trait. This is a tough one even for me! ☺

This is a Bookmobile week, so please have your child bring his/her books in on Thursday. Also, we will be making a few more Christmas crafts this week, including sewing a small stocking on Tuesday. The class has done a beautiful job with all of our projects thus far. If possible, would you please send in a photo of your child with friends and/or family. The photo will be for one of our projects and will not be returned in the same condition.

Reading - We will continue and finish our Patchwork Poetry unit this week. The unit has gone very well so far. Students have been excited and creative with their patches. After Christmas, students will be required to memorize and recite three of these poems for a grade. Any poems they recite above and beyond the three will be extra credit.

Math - This week we will have Saxon every day. New concepts will include: drawing a reflection across a line of symmetry, making and reading a venn diagram, and using the multiplication algorithm for multiplying a 2-digit number by a single digit. Friday will be an assessment day. PLEASE keep practicing multiplication. We will begin testing out of the facts after Christmas.

History - We will our unit on the early exploration of North America, including Spanish, English, and French explorers. Mr. Perakos and I are team teaching History at this point, so you may see some varied assignments as Mr. Perakos tries out a variety of engaging activities to assess learning. Please feel free to direct questions to either of us. ***The Tic-Tac-Toe extra credit projects for the Native American unit are absolutely fabulous. Everyone did a wonderful job!!***

Science -Our next unit will cover the human eye before break and light/optics after break. As a special activity for this unit, the eighth grade science class will dissect sheep eyes for us on Wednesday, December 14 at 10:15 a.m. Feel free to join us if you are interested!!

Writing -The class will work on our class presentation for the Christmas party this week, but I don't want to spoil the surprise, so that's all I can say! ☺ We will also write rough drafts for the Grade 13 and Beyond scholarship contest this week. Ask your child about this very special essay.

Spelling - We will test on List 50 Thursday and List 52 Friday. There will be no new lists this week.

I hope I have covered everything. If you have questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for your continued support and assistance! You are greatly appreciated!! Have a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

Educationally yours,

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