

December 13, 2011,

Dear Parents,

This is our last week before Christmas break and it will surely be a crazy one with students anticipating the upcoming holiday. We do have several items to wrap up before break, so I hope they are able to concentrate for at least a little longer.

Spelling/Vocabulary: Our last spelling test before break will be on Tuesday. We will have an orthography test on Wednesday, followed by our third word study quiz on Thursday. On Friday, we will have spelling review activities.

Writing: We will be focusing on the rough draft, revising, and editing of our Grade 13 and Beyond essays. These essays will be due shortly after Christmas break, so we need to get a jump on them now.

Reading: We will finish up our study of A Midsummer Night's Dream during the first part of the week. Presentations of our realistic fiction genre projects will be on Friday. Some of the students are only doing a summary of their book, but not completing the entire project. A summary is not a complete project.

Math: We will have three days of math during the week. There will not be a math journal this Friday, either.

Red group --- Prime numbers, subtracting mixed numbers with regrouping, and polygons will be discussed during this group's lessons.

Blue group --- This group will be adding and subtracting decimals, converting units of length, and changing improper fractions to whole or mixed numbers.

Science: Students will continue to work on their small group science fair projects. There are students who have volunteered to bring items for their group's project. These items need to be here on Tuesday so that they have time to finish their experimentation before the break. We will work on the report and board after break. The science fair will be held on January 17th.

Social Studies: We have finished the reading of our Mesoamerican unit and will spend some time doing supplemental activities and reviewing for the test. The assessment will be given on Thursday.

Santa's Workshop: The 8th graders will be having their annual fundraiser, Santa's Workshop, during the week. Students will have an opportunity to preview the offerings on Tuesday, and then go back on Thursday to make their purchases. They will also be available for shopping after school.

Christmas Party: Look for the Christmas party signup sheet outside our door if you are interested in supplying any treats. Thank you to those of you who have already signed up for an item. Our party will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. on Friday.

Christmas gift exchange: The students have drawn names of who they should bring a gift for to our Christmas party. These are also the kids that they will be showing random acts of kindness towards. These kindnesses will begin on Tuesday, and each day during the week. As a reminder, the actual gift to exchange should not cost over \$10. If your family is not able to purchase a gift for the party, please let me know so that we can make other arrangements. I don't want any child to be left out due to financial circumstances.

Character Ed. Assembly: Our next assembly will be on Friday at 8 a.m. Our trait winner for this month is Morgan Sydow.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please contact me at school or by e-mail (lisarupple@re3j.com).

Sincerely,

Lisa Ruppel

Reminders:

- Breakfast burritos are available every Wednesday for \$3.00.
- School board meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
- Bookmobile on Thursday
- Chick-fil-A hot lunch on Friday
- Character Ed. Assembly on Friday at 8:00 p.m.
- Christmas break: December 20th - January 3rd. School resumes on Wednesday, January 4th.