

December 10th, 2014

Volume 4, Issue 2

Ms. Drummer's Monthly Dish

Mark Your Calendar

12/12: Talent Show Auditions

12/12: Romulus Indoor Waterpark Event

12/15-12/18: Student Holiday Shop

12/16: Class Winter Celebration!!
@2:00-3:30

12/18: School Talent Show
@1:30-3:30

12/19: Winter Vacation begins at the end of the school day

1/5: School Resumes!

1/6: December Book-It Reading Calendar Due

1/19:MLK Day- No School

From Ms. Drummer's Desk

Dear Families,

I hope that you have had time to sit with your child and reflect on your child's fall report card that came home on Tuesday, November 24th. This is a great time to celebrate accomplishments, and set goals where improvement is needed whether it is academic improvements, behavior improvements, or both. If you have not yet done so, please be sure to sign the report card envelope and have your child return it to school ASAP.

Before Thanksgiving Break students had time in class to self reflect and write their own goals. Students also had to write how they will accomplish their personal goals.

Winter vacation begins at the end of the school day on **Friday, December 19th. Please contact me ASAP if your child will be leaving for winter vacation prior to Friday.**

Our Class Winter Celebration will be on Tuesday, December 16th from 2:00-3:30 in our classroom. Mrs. Crystal Francis (Faith's mom) and Mrs. Simone Powell (Brianna's mom) will be organizing the party. We are asking for each child who would like to have pizza and juice during the party to please donate \$2 by **Tuesday morning**. We will also need frosting, and sprinkles for the students to decorate cookies. If you would like to assist or donate other supplies you can contact Mrs. Francis at crystal1075@aol.com and Mrs. Powell at ssstrong30@gmail.com. All parents are invited!!

Winter vacation is very exciting and I hope that although the students will be away from school for two weeks that their learning will not stop.

Therefore, I would like to strongly encourage each of you to take time out to visit the public library and/or

book stores, encourage your child to read independently, write in their Writer's Notebook, play some math games on the computer, and practice their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts as well. I will be sending home a math review packet. **This is optional for students to complete.**

Students can return their math review packet to school on the Monday that we return from winter vacation. **It is not required that your child complete the packet. However, if your child completes their entire review packet, he or she will have the opportunity to select an item from the prize box.**

Students should also turn in their December Pizza Hut Book-It Reading Calendar when they return from break as well. I will send the January Pizza Hut Book-It Reading Calendar home before break.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, and or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to the New Year and I hope that all families have a safe, relaxing, and exciting winter break! Best wishes for the New Year!

Educationally yours,

Ms. Drummer

Curriculum Highlights



The Book Nook After break the students and I will begin working on Book Talks. The students will give a brief summary of a book that they have read or are currently reading, with the goal being to interest their peers in reading the book as well. This is also a great way to extend listening and speaking skills, while sharing the exciting journeys of literature with our classmates!

We are also still busy with our Reading Response Letters. With my thoughtful feedback and guidance the students are being asked to apply effective reading strategies that strong readers use. In their letters, students are asked to share questions/wonderings about the book, summarize the part of the book that they are reading, make thoughtful connections, and predictions. Our class will continue to discuss the important strategies that strong readers use so that we can continue to strengthen our reading comprehension skills. These are important skills that should be reinforced at home when reading “just right” books.

Please continue to encourage your children to read a variety of genres at home on a daily basis. Our reading goal for the Pizza Hut Book-It Program for this month is 300 minutes! In January our reading goal is 350 minutes!



The Pencil Is Mightier We have started working on our informational articles! We began our unit by comparing some features of narrative writing and expository/nonfiction writing. Students then generated different expert lists thinking about people, places, animals, and activities. They created their lists thinking about things that they are already knowledgeable about. Last week students selected their topic for their informational article, and then created a concept web for their topic by thinking about all of the words and phrases associated with their topic. This week students will begin sorting their words and phrases into categories that have something in common. These categories will become the main ideas for their informational article. Next, students will begin adding details that support the main ideas for their article using a graphic organizer.



Sum News Students will take their Unit 4 Math Test on Thursday! We will spend time in class reviewing decimals and their uses before taking the test. Students will take the Unit 5 Pre-test on Friday, and we will begin Unit 5 next week, which will focus on comparing large numbers, and using the partial products algorithm to multiply multi-digit numbers. We will also revisit estimation, and students will learn strategies for solving extended multiplication facts!

“Once children learn how to learn, nothing is going to narrow their mind. The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another.”

-Marva Collins

Lastly, I am once again strongly encouraging families to utilize everydaymathonline.com. Each student has been provided his or her login information and password. I have taped this information inside of their Homework Folder. The directions were included in your Curriculum Night Parent Folder on how to access eSuite on everydaymathonline.com. Students can practice their fact fluency, play math games, and access the student reference book to assist with homework. In addition, there are online animations that model how to use math algorithms taught in the math curriculum.



The World Around Us In science we have learned about food chains that include producers, herbivores, carnivores, and nature's recyclers. We discussed the important role that nature's recyclers play in the food chain and multiple food webs. Students choose examples of producers, herbivores, carnivore, and nature's recyclers and created their own food chains in their science notebooks. We also played the Nutrient Game to learn more about how nutrients are recycled between producers, herbivores, carnivores, and nature's recyclers! Each student had a role in the game as a plant/producer, herbivore, carnivore, or nature recycler. The students really enjoyed the game! At the end of the game we discussed what would happen if there were no nature's recyclers. Next week we will play Nature's Recyclers Jeopardy to review the important concepts that we have learned during our science unit. Students will take a final assessment next Tuesday.

In social studies we have completed our Northeast region geography challenge, and we are beginning chapter 5. In chapter 5 we will learn about the population density in the Northeast region. Students will work on comparing the housing, transportation, recreation, and occupations in the urban and rural communities of the Northeast region. When we finish studying the Northeast region we will begin exploring the Southeast region.

December Birthdays!



- Kellen 12/1
- Raja 12/2
- Grace 12/9
- Ashley 12/26



