

December 17, 2015

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that winter break begins after our party on Friday! The students are ready for break. They have been working hard to pass math challenges and earn AR awards. When we return from break, we will take reading and math benchmark tests. The students have done well in these areas, and I look for continued success for the rest of the school year. The children have acquired many new skills so far this year, and they will be introduced to even more new concepts as the year continues. I want to keep you informed about some of the things that we will be involved in when we return from break.

Reading – We will soon receive Volume II of the Treasures reading book. It will be fun to flip through the pages and see the many new stories, both fiction and non-fiction, that we will read during second semester. We will discuss the stories and their literary elements to increase our comprehension and knowledge base. We also will continue to meet four days a week in small groups to concentrate on skills such as fact finding, analyzing the story and characters, predicting, sequencing, and vocabulary building. Please share these stories with your student when they bring material home to read. The boys and girls like to share new words and concepts with their family to show how much they have learned in class.

Grammar & Writing-We will continue adding to our knowledge of parts of speech and the mechanics of writing. The students are aware of adjectives and adverbs and how they make their writing more interesting. We routinely practice the five parts to a good sentence. We will be writing paragraphs more frequently, and hope to be able to pull off a great paragraph in a matter of minutes by the end of the year.

Math-Our math program continues to challenge the students with new concepts while reviewing previously learned concepts. Some new areas to be covered in the near future include an introduction to multiplication and division, basic fractions, and various types of number stories. As always, continue working with your child to count money and tell time. These are two skills that are essential in everyday life.

Science and Social Studies-These two areas are guided by our subscription to Scholastic News. I try to add to the publication by bringing in additional information and activities for the afternoon. These publications explore current events as well as historical events and important science topics. We use an online version to supplement the paper copy, as well as additional games and Scholastic News videos. The students seem to enjoy these activities.

This may be a good time to restock school supplies, such as pencils, markers, crayons, and glue. Your child also may need a new supply of tissues for their desk. Thanks for your help with these things. It is much easier to complete tasks with the proper materials.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, feel free to contact me. I look forward to the rest of the school year and spending time with your children.

Happy Holidays,
Bonnie Northrup

