

November 24, 2015

Dear Families,

I can't believe that November is almost over! We have been very busy these past couple of weeks studying the Pilgrims and their struggle to survive and settle in America. It is a topic that allows us to study history but also complete some fun activities as well. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday, and I want the students to be aware of all that our forefathers had to endure before being able to have the first harvest feast in America. Enjoy this month's holiday, and hopefully your student will be able to enlighten family and friends with some interesting Thanksgiving trivia.

If you routinely or occasionally pick your child up at the end of the day, we have started to walk second grade students out of the building at 3:10. This is 5 minutes earlier than before. We want to make sure that your child gets to the proper adult and avoid the traffic rush, so we are being allowed to make this slight change in dismissal time. I hope that it works well.

Please make sure that your student has an extra pair of tennis shoes at school. With snow on the way I realize that the boys and girls will be wearing boots. If they have a pair of shoes at school, they will always have P.E. shoes, which will make Mr. Valla happy, and it is not necessary to pack shoes daily.

With December right around the corner, I wanted to remind you of several important dates that will affect our class. Please be sure to check the monthly newsletter and our school website for additional special events

**Stuff the Bus** – Elmwood Elementary is holding its annual food drive November 30 – December 16. The food will go to a local food pantry for local distribution. Any donations are greatly appreciated. The class that brings in the most items will earn a pizza party with Mr. Frost.

**Santa's Secret Shop** – We will shop on Thursday, December 3 at 9:30. This is always a favorite with the boys and girls. They can shop, wrap, and surprise family members with treasures from the shop that our Parents' Club creates in our library. There will be more information to follow.

**Holiday Party** – Our classroom party will be held on Friday, December 18 at 1:15. If you are scheduled to help with this party, the lead room parent will be contacting you. The students always look forward to the classroom parties, and we appreciate all that our parents do to make sure that a fun time is had by all!

I know that the holiday season is a busy time for all, but please be sure to keep your student's new skills and concepts fresh through regular practice during our lengthy winter break. Daily reading is crucial to assist in fluency and comprehension. Also, please have your child tell you the time, practice counting coins, and do several addition problems with regrouping so they do not forget this new skill. These simple practices can be done in several minutes, but they can make a big difference.

Enjoy your holiday,  
Bonnie Northrup

