

December 14, 2007

Dear Families,

We have spent the last two weeks trying to wrap up various odds and ends before we stop for winter break. Students have been working hard, although as usual at this time of year the class has become a little chatty. Hopefully we can get in a solid week of work next week despite the holiday distractions.

Reading

Most students just finished or are in the process of finishing a Judy Blume book. Judy Blume is one of my favorite authors, and writes about things that kids in fourth grade can relate. Hopefully, for some students that really enjoyed her books it will be a spring board to read more books by Judy Blume.

Math

Students have been working on decimals. I must say that this is one of the best classes I've ever had at converting between units in the metric system (cm to mm, M to cm...etc.).

Science

Students continue to work in our Energy, Force, and Motion unit. Students have been exploring; potential energy, kinetic energy, gravity, opposing forces, friction, inertia, and more.

Writing

Students have been working on writing persuasive essays. They are writing to you about things they would like for the holidays. Their task was to try to come up with two reasons you might support getting what they ask for, and answering and objection you might have to getting them what they want (it's too expensive, too loud, too much responsibility...etc.).

Poems

Students have been doing a great job memorizing, and reciting their poems. It's been great public speaking practice. We will do one more poem next week, and students can get bonus points for reciting a holiday poem during their winter break holiday if they return to school after break with a note from a parent. I was very impressed with the amount of studying that went on this week around poems. There were a few times when I was going to ask kids to stop talking, but I realized they were studying their poems together. It's actually been a lot of fun to watch.

Winter-Break Party

We will be having a winter-break party of Friday, December 21, 2007, from 12:30 – 1:30. Everyone that would like to attend is welcome. We will be spending our time snacking and sharing with each other some of our holiday traditions. If you would like to send something in to snack on that would be fine, please send a note with your child

letting me know what you're sending in, so that I can make sure we don't have too much food.

At 1:30 there will be a school-wide assembly and we will be singing some winter songs. Words to the songs will be displayed on the wall using an overhead projector, so if you wish to stay and sing you may. If you want to stand with me at the back of the gym and lip sync that's okay too.

Flynn Theatre

We had an enormous response in the number of parents that wanted to chaperone our trip to the Flynn. As a result, I called the Flynn and was able to get enough seats, so that all the chaperones that wanted to come can.

Thank you,

Mr. Cheney 12/14/07