

November 25, 2009

Dear Parents,

With the holiday season upon us, I'm reminded of how fast time passes. The changes I see daily in your children, both academically and socially, are incredible.

I hope everyone enjoyed our potluck Thanksgiving dinner. By the look of things, everyone seemed to be having a good time while enjoying some delicious food! It was nice to see parents that did not really know each other get a chance to introduce themselves and connect each child with who their parents are. Thank you to all of you for helping with this event and for contributing to our dinner. A very special thank you to Carolyn Moyer for all her help before, during, and after the dinner!

It was a pleasure to meet with all of you during conferences. It's important to keep the lines of communication open at all times when it comes to your children's progress. I encourage you to ask questions and bring concerns to me as they arise, as I will do the same.

Attached is the December volunteer schedule. The January schedule will come out in a few weeks. Let me know if your availability has changed.

I am sending home the words for our Christmas program song. Please help your child practice our song at home. The show is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 17th.

Just a quick reminder that we are going on a field trip next Friday, December 4th. Please make sure your child's permission slip is turned in. We will eat an early lunch here at school before we leave.

Topics to be covered this month are:

Religion - Advent, Scripture Stories

Building Character - Cooperation

Math - Strategies for Subtraction Facts to 12

Science - Plants and Animals

Social Studies -Weather/Shelter

Reading/Language Arts:

Phonics- sh, th, o ound as in -a/-al/-all, long
a spelled a_e, /s/ spelled c, /j/ spelled g, long
i spelled i_e, wh, ch, tch

Comprehension- main idea and details, cause and
effect, author's purpose

Spelling- sh/th words, long a, long i

Vocabulary Skills- classifying words, time and
order words, directional words
Grammar- nouns, proper nouns, special titles
Writing- animal stories, realistic fiction, describing

Share topics are:
week of Dec. 7 - favorite stuffed animal
week of Dec. 14 - favorite Christmas
decoration/reminder
week of Jan. 4 - favorite gift

Students will have a book report due in December. It will be a written one. This is due on or before December 17th. The book they are reporting on should be grade appropriate and at a comfortable reading level for them. We will begin our first oral book report in January, when the month is not as short and busy.

I hope Thanksgiving is full of love and joy for you and your family.

Julie Brand