

Dear Parents, Dec. 1, 2015

A big thank you goes out to all the parents who helped and donated items for our Thanksgiving feast. Our children had a great time. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is over and it is already December first! Here is a quick update for special dates to remember.

Dec. 3rd-PTO sponsored assembly for students-Community Music School 9:15

Dec. 4th at 9:00-9:30-First Friday Family Read-Families welcome

Dec. 8th Lunch in the classroom due to referendum in all-purpose room (lunch room).

Dec. 11th Report Cards go home

Dec. 11th -School-wide assembly for students at 2:30

Dec. 15th at 9:15 Choral Concert for students (Evening show at 6:00)-older students who have joined the chorus and band will be performing.

Dec. 15th at 2:00-Special Winter Craft Activity & Party before Winter Break-Parents Welcome

Dec. 17th at 2:00-Pajama Day & Snowman Movie for students-hot cocoa and munchkins served for afternoon snack.

Dec. 18th-Wear KES spirit clothing. Students may wear red and white or blue and gold.

Dec. 22nd Full Day of school

Dec. 23rd Minimum Day-Holiday Wear-“Ugly sweater day”.

It is a short, busy month. Take time to enjoy special moments with family and friends.

Happy Holidays! -Kathy Sullivan with Kathy Lalikos & Kevin Dennis

**-Update for Academics on the back**

**Academics in December……………..**

As for reading, the focus of this unit is to help students get better at reading by using everything they know about looking at both the pictures and the words. Students need to place greater emphasis on the print and develop the concept of one-to-one matching. This month, strategies are introduced to figure out unfamiliar words. Strong readers use a combination of strategies such as using the pictures, the first letter of a word, looking for words they know (sight words) or recognizing a pattern within a story. Students are learning to make sure their reading makes sense and sounds right. In addition, we will emphasize the importance of rereading books to build automaticity, phrasing, and expression.

In writing, students are working on writing true stories (something they did-something that really happened). The first trimester goal is that students will write words using two correct letters sounds (such as was might be wz). Kindergarten students are expected to spell sight words correctly by using the word wall or word ring. Students should be able to write a simple sentence independently, use spaces between words and a period at the end of a sentence. Students should stay on topic and use pictures with labels and/or speech bubbles. Please keep in mind that students develop at their own pace and there is a wide range of abilities. I will continue to model these skills and encourage students as they try to write stories.

In math, the focus will be on numbers 7 through 10. Students are working on writing numbers to ten and representing a number of objects with a written numeral (count and record). We are helping students to count objects using the correct order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object (one to one correspondence). Students need to understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted and that the number of objects counted is the same regardless of their arrangement or the order in which they were counted. Students need to understand that when they are counting each successive number name refers to a quantity that is one larger. Students are learning to identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than or equal to the number of objects in another group by using matching or counting strategies. Students will learn to compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numbers. For example, students might be asked to circle the larger number.