

# School Street School

December 16, 2011



## December Calendar

2 - Winter Concert 1:15  
9 - Winter Concert Snow Date  
23 - Early Dismissal Day  
26-30 - School Closed



## January Calendar

2 - School Reopens  
No School - Martin Luther King Day  
20 - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period  
27 - Report Cards sent home

## Early Dismissal Schedule

Grades 1 - 3 8:00 -12:45  
Kindergarten AM 8:00 -10:05  
Kindergarten PM 10:40 -12:45  
Preschool 8:00 -12:45

## Thank You PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for the delicious treats we were all able to enjoy on December 12<sup>th</sup>. A special to thanks to Tommy and Lucy McLoughlin's mom, Laurie Wurm, for coordinating this event. We truly appreciate all the PTA does for the staff and students at SSS.

# CLASSROOM NEWS

**Ms. Kovall - Gr. 3** - What type of gingerbread character would you create? Students in room 208 have been reading and listening to many different types of gingerbread stories. Students are now drafting their very own gingerbread football player, president, robber, teacher and many more. We have also be using graphic organizers to brainstorm ideas for our writing prompts. In math we continue to review place value to the hundred thousands and our multiplication facts to 5.

**Ms. Cutugno - Gr. 2** - This week the class is learning about open syllables in Foundations. They have learned that an open syllable has one vowel, the vowel is at the end of the syllable, and the vowel is long. The students are working hard in Math by reviewing Chapter 6: Subtraction Strategies for

their test this Tuesday and will then be tested on Unit 1 this Friday. In Writing, we have finished our Friendly Letters and have started to discuss Fables. The class is reading Fables, learning parts of a Fable, and discussing what makes an interesting story and that all Fables teach us a lesson. We have been learning about different holidays in Social Studies such as Christmas, Las Posadas, Hanukkah, Eid-ul-Fitr, Diwali, and Winter Festival. We are working hard on our holiday gifts and cannot wait to show you them all soon!

**Mrs. Kelly - Gr. 3** - In math we are working on place value and continue to drill math facts, multiplication coming soon. The class made snowman "similies", as we try to include similies in our writing prompts. We also made math Christmas trees with math problem ornaments. We have just finished our read aloud The Tale of Desperaux. What will Mrs.Kelly read next?

**Grade 1** - First grade students did a better job this week in accounting for the minutes they have read and returning their forms. Please keep them coming so we can reach our million minute goal. We will be sending a form on Friday for next week and then two forms home over the vacation for the week of vacation and the first week in January. Later in mid January we plan to begin our Running Start Program for all first graders which will be in addition to the million minute marathon. Each child will try to read one or two books each night towards challenges and the reward of a book from the PTA.. Putting the amount of minutes down will be easy to do along with filling out shoes towards our grade challenge.

Take 10 will go home the next 2 Fridays due the next 2 Thursdays. As our gift to our students we will not send the Take 10 journals home over the holidays.

The Babes program continues to study consequences and choices that the children face every day. This week discussed following rules set up by parents and the consequences that may occur.

A lot of holidays around the world have been visited this week in each of the classrooms. One classroom celebrated St. Lucia day on the 13th with stories, rice pudding, and a student dressed up as St. Lucia with a wreath on her head. Other holidays discussed have been Ramadan and Diwali Diya with making clay pots and having a quest speaker, former ESL teacher Mrs. Madeka., For Los Posados, we made poinsettias and for Kwanzaa we learned about the 7 principles. Some classrooms have made ornaments representing traditions in other countries.

Please dress your children in layers since some classrooms are very warm and others can be very cold. Please make sure your child has a coat, hat and gloves when appropriate.

**Mrs. Bariso - Gr. 2** - In Mrs. Bariso's room, we started an adjective project this week. The children received a stuffed animal that they have to describe. They will use different types of adjectives, focusing on sensory adjectives, and they will design a poster about their animal. They are very eager and excited to begin. They are all hoping to adopt their animals when the project is finished.

**Mrs. Baseil - Bridges** - Bridges to Learning students learned a new poem entitled A Good Place to Sleep by Margaret Hillert. Students enjoy poems which are introduced monthly. After listening, they practice reading via echo, shared and choral reading. Eventually, children read the poems individually and some even commit these poems to memory. Monthly poems are posted on the Bridges to Learning website as well.

Here's December's Poem:

A Good Place to Sleep  
by Margaret Hillert  
Little Bear sleeps in the woods, in the woods.  
Little gull sleeps on the sea.

Little colt sleeps in a big, big field.  
Little squirrel sleeps in the sea.

Small fox sleeps in a den, in a den.  
A hive is the place for a bee.  
But here I am in my very own bed,  
And that's the best place for me.

**Mrs. Viruet - Kindergarten** - Mrs. Viruet's kindergarten students enjoyed reading more books by author/illustrator, Jan Brett. We read: *Gingerbread Friends*, *The Three Snow Bears*, *The Wild Christmas Reindeer* & *Who's That Knocking on Christmas Eve?* You can visit her website at [janbrett.com](http://janbrett.com) if you would like to learn more about her characters or books. You can also visit Boonton Holmes library to take out one of her books.

**Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2** - Room 206 students have been learning about animal habitats and endangered animals during the past week. Read alouds included *Welcome to the Ice House* (Arctic animals) and *All About Endangered Animals*. The boys and girls each chose a habitat background scene to color (desert, arctic, grassland, forest, or rain forest), then glued on animals representative of that habitat. In computer lab they watched the video *The Forest* ([brainpopjr.com](http://brainpopjr.com)), took an on-line test, and then completed follow up writing and drawing activities. Students learned how changes in an animal's habitat might cause it to become endangered. This point will be reinforced as they listen to *The Berenstain Bears' Christmas Tree*; Papa Bear decides not to cut down a "perfect" Christmas tree because it is a home to so many animals.

**Mrs. Bednar - Gr. 3** - Students in Mrs. Bednar's class have been learning about forces and friction in Science class. In Math, they are enjoying playing against me when we play the game "Beat My Number" to practice the value of digits in a number.

**Ms. Pollina - K** - Kindergarten students have been learning about the author Jan Brett. We have read many of her books including *The Mitten*, *The Hat*, *Gingerbread Baby*, *Gingerbread Friends*, and *The Three Snow Bears*. The children have enjoyed comparing the characters from all of the stories and looking at all of the wonderful illustrations.

**Ms. Spinner** - *The students have been as busy as elves at the North Pole the week before the holidays. The students diligently worked on their gingerbread books. Even Ms. Spinner and Ms. Kovall created a book, "The Gingerbread Student". The students seemed to enjoy their version! For the Edline challenge, students need to record the villain in their teachers version of the story. In math, the students reviewed coordinates, place value, and multiplication by learning and playing some new games. Yes, learning can be fun! The students also practiced reading information from graphs. Next Tuesday, students will have a BIG math test which will include many concepts taught so far. Also, on the test front...next Wednesday is the social studies test on the USA. Students will need to fill in the missing state names on a USA map. In addition, students added the Liberty Bell to their USA symbol book. Third graders definitely work hard!*

**Mrs. Hame - Kindergarten:** This week we practiced counting to 25, viewed a Dora video about Dia de Los Tres Reyes/The Three Kings Day, and made a Cascabel/Jingle bell bracelet.

**First Grade:** This week the first graders learned that the most precious gift is the one given from the heart, by reading The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie Depaola. We began decorating a holiday ornament.

**Second Grade:** This week we talked about Las Posadas and what it symbolizes. We also talked about the Christmas plant the Poinsettia and began decorating a holiday ornament.

**Third Grade:** The third graders learned the valuable lesson of appreciating gifts by reading the story Home for Navidad. We began our holiday project and will continue next week.

**Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2** - In math, we are completing regrouping in addition. When we return from vacation, we will begin regrouping in subtraction. This is difficult for second graders. Please review the regrouping concepts with your child. We will continue to work on them in school. Math flash cards need to be practiced at home also. We just took our second timed test for the superintendent's challenge. The students must work on subtraction, in order to help with timed tests and regrouping problems. For the next timed test for Dr. Johnson, we will add multiplication to 5. Addition and subtraction must be mastered first. Your support is appreciated!

**Mrs. Ragoza - Reading -**

Million Minute Reading Marathon Update

Year-to-Date Minutes Read through December 9	Year-to-Date Goal	Difference
386,339	315,000	<b>Plus 71,339Minutes</b>

School Street School has read almost 400,000 minutes year to date! We are fast approaching the halfway point in our Million Minute Reading Marathon. When we reach 500,000 minutes, we will celebrate with a school-wide assembly sometime during the month of January. I'm happy to report that the following classes beat their classroom reading goal last week:

- Pre-K: Harbeson
- Kindergarten: ALL!
- First Grade: ALL!
- Second Grade: Bariso, Mentone and Shellenhamer
- Third Grade: Bednar, Kelly

**Mrs. Wieland** - December 12th, 2011: The children have been working on writing telling and asking sentences, the differentiation of which has proven challenging for many. We have a large question mark in class where we put in the words that begin a question-type of sentence. They know that if they select a word from that symbol, it is going to be a question. The next step is to answer all of the question-type sentences using their restating skills. Please continue to review the words lists specific to each of their stories read for class and homework, as well as practicing reading for accuracy and fluency. Find books and stories to read over break, as it will be easier to pick up where we left off after the winter break!

Math: The students have almost conquered counting by 5 to 100 - it would be beneficial to review over the break (orally and in writing), as well as an opportune time to practice addition and subtraction facts, especially those subtraction facts!. Remember: 2nd graders will begin multiplication in January! The children have been doing a lot of review, including, but not limited to: greater than, less than, drawing word problems, identification of key words to determine add or subtract, column addition, subtracting multiple digits, filling in blank number lines to 100, counting by tens, recognizing patterns, and even/odd numbers.

**Mrs. Theiller - Pre K** - In Language Arts this week the children worked on name recognition while playing I Have Who Has Names. This game also reinforced letter recognition and initial sounds. We continued to rhyme words while reading Hop on Pop, The Three Little Kittens and Little Boy Blue.

In Math this week, we practiced counting to 31 using our Timeline Calendar. We learned/reinforced the math concepts how many days until and how many since and counting on. We played numberline hopscotch to learn and reinforce counting from 1 to 10, counting on from a number other than 1 and number recognition.

**Mrs. Flynn** - This week we have been busy learning about different holiday celebrations around the world. We made and read a story about holiday celebrations, and then watched a video about December Holidays. In Math, we took our final measurement assessments, and began learning about the differences between plain shapes and solid figures. The students enjoyed finding different objects in the room that were shaped like cylinders, cubes, rectangular prisms, cones, and spheres.

**Mrs. Harbeson - Pre K** - This week the Bridges to Learning preschoolers continued to learn about the different December holidays during our Story Labs. They also practiced their songs for a mini winter concert which will take place on Friday, December 23. Our restaurant theme is coming to an end...our next play theme will be: pets. Some of the centers will be a vet, an obedience school, a pet shop, grooming area, and humane center.

**Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K** - This week, the children played "Get On Board" and "Look What You Can Do". These are community building activities that focus on positive peer interaction and pairs expressive language with gross motor action and music. We also finished making holiday presents for our families!