

# School Street School

December 2, 2011



## December Calendar

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

## 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

**Class Attendance Award for November** - Mrs. Bednar's Grade Class

## Students of the Month

Pre K - Connie Lee - 102  
K - AM - Austin Hudak 100  
K - PM - Sarah Blood - 101  
1<sup>st</sup> - Amdnda Tuohy - 108  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Caitlin Melgaard 207  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Gianna Galicia 202  
Attendance - Mrs. Bednar

# CLASSROOM NEWS

**Ms. Pollina - K** - Ms. Pollina's AM and PM Classes enjoyed Thanksgiving by performing 4 songs for their parents and enjoying a delicious feast.



**Dr. Chiodo** - This week in OT we are going to transition into our winter and holiday themes. The younger students will be getting some great hands on crafting experience to work on our fine motor and eye-hand coordination. Older students will be working on copying from near and far point, organizational skills and sequencing.

**Grade 1** - The first grade teachers hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving holiday with family. The week has been busy with extra rehearsals for our holiday concert. Everyone has been excited about doing their best singing with their best first grade manners. We appreciate everyone who could come hear all grades perform and fill our audience to share our joy of singing. This begins a busy month of learning about holidays that are celebrated around the world. Take 10 has been confusing lately with no school on Thursdays but Thursday is still the day they are due. The dates in December are Dec. 2, Dec. 9, and Dec. 16 with no Take 10 over the holiday. Be sure to use the new December words in the back cover of the journals. Every Friday each child is expected to turn in a Million Minute Marathon paper indicating the number of minutes your child reads or listens to stories for that week. We are in the middle of a challenge, Classes get rewards for 100% participation and the most minutes read in a grade. It only takes a minute each day to write down the minutes read and would help us reach our goal of one million minutes. We have learned about glued sounds in Foundations. All, am, and an have only one sound when included in a word. We would all like to wish Mrs. Houck some rest as she leaves to prepare for the arrival of Baby Houck.

**Mrs. Baseil - Library**

*Home is Where the Heart Is!*

This week, aside from identifying the sound of "H," students in Bridges to Learning explored the idea that what makes a home is both culturally and personally determined. We learned that while a home naturally provides needed shelter, it's also a place we go to find comfort, security, and most importantly, love and compassion.

We read about what it means to be a builder and architect and observed the steps it takes to build a house from the foundation to the roof. Then, we tapped into our creativity and designed our dream homes. Literary resources included: Meet My Neighbor, the Builder by Marc Crabtree, This is a House by Colleen Stanley Bare, Moving to a New House by Nicola Barber and the classic The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton.

Our Hh word list included: house, hunter, hilarious, hello, high, hibernate, hungry, hint, holiday, horrible, Halloween, helicopter, hand, Hudson, hair, heaven, height, Hawaii, Hanukkah, happy and hope. During math we counted one hundred houses and sequenced numbered houses 1-100. The lesson proved to be a real hit!

**Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K** - This week our Transportation them was introduced. The students were exposed to various modes of transportation through Story Lab books and center stations. For the next three weeks, the focus will be on language both receptive and expressive, appropriate peer interaction while playing, and self-regulation skills.

**Mrs. Bednar - Gr. 3** - In math, students in Mrs. Bednar's class are learning about place value and how to determine the value of a digit in a number. They are also learning easy ways to add tens, hundreds and thousands to four digit numbers. They continue to work on writing compositions that make sense to the reader, have a good opening paragraph, and show good usage of similes and strong vocabulary.

**Mrs. Viruet - Kindergarten** - Mrs. Viruet's kindergarten classes learned about animals that hibernate during the winter: bears, skunks, insects, turtles, snakes, bats & frogs. We focused mainly on learning about the bear. The children made the books, "My Black Bear Book," "Who's in the Forest?" and "Bears, Bears, Bears." The children are learning how to point to words when reading and how to find known sight words within the story.

**Mrs. Wieland** - The children are using voice inflection at the end sentences with a question mark. We continue to work on differentiating between telling and asking sentences, avoiding run-on sentences, using at least 8 words in a sentence, beginning sentences with a capital letter and ending with a punctuation mark. The children are finishing typing their **how to** paragraphs. They enjoyed listening to stories read about the arduous trip the Pilgrims endured on the Mayflower, how challenging and dangerous it was for them once they arrived, and what life was like for the Pilgrim children. It will be sad to see such an interesting month go, but December has many fun activities in store!

**Math:** The focus continues to be subtraction, so please continue to practice with the flash cards each night! The students should be practicing addition and subtraction at this point. For the 2nd graders, it will soon be time to start multiplication - that will begin in January!! Some of the children are still completing their Thanksgiving math packets; others have moved on to column addition. All of the children are practicing counting by 2 and 5 now. Please practice counting by 5 with your child at home, as this will be very important for telling time and counting money. They are sequencing, adding up and down, and using what they know to apply to subtraction.

**Mrs. Bariso - Gr. 2** - This week we started working on addition of two digit numbers. The children will be working on regrouping. We will be doing a lot of hands-on types of learning, using manipulatives, communicators and wipe-off boards to make the math problem. A common error you may see at home is that the children don't always put their numbers in the right place value column.

We have not given up the flash card practice, so please continue to practice at home too. ( mark it down on your calendars)

We are beginning to learn about the different winter holidays celebrated. On December 20th the entire second grade classes will have a Festival of Traditions. We will spend our morning rotating through each second grade classroom learning about different cultures and holiday traditions celebrated.

If anyone would like to come in before then to speak about your culture, or tradition your family celebrates please let me know.

**Ms. Cutugno - Gr. 2** - This week we are learning about vowel-consonant-e syllables in Foundations, finishing our chapter on fossils in Science, beginning chapter 6: Subtraction Strategies in Math, and continue to draft our friendly letters in Writing. We are also writing our December essays which will be displayed in the hallway. The class is very excited for the winter concert this Friday and hopes to see you all there!

**Ms. Spinner - Gr. 3** - The students have been as busy as bees pollinating flowers in the spring. Yes, the students are learning to incorporate similes in their writing. In math, the students are reading and writing 6 digit numbers in standard, word, and expanded form. They also practiced the multiplication facts from 0 to 5. In addition, they learned to multiply a multi digit by one digit number. In social studies, the students embarked on a journey to learn about the symbols that represent the United States. This week, they learned some interesting facts about the flag and the White House. They added these pages to a book they are creating. With their hard work and

persistence, your child will be as wise as an owl! For the Edline challenge, students need to write the 2 similes I used this week. Challenge is due by Monday. Answer to last weeks challenge:

- **Grandma and Grandpa had six children:  $6+2=8$  people**
- **Each of those six children grew up and had four children of their own:  $6 \times 4=24$  children**
- **Those children all grew up and each one had two children.  $24 \times 2=48$  children**

$48+24+8=80$  people are coming to Thanksgiving dinner.

**Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2** - The students in Room 206 have been learning about animals in science. During the past few weeks they have written clues about a "secret animal", challenging their classmates to guess its identity. They have also gone "animal browsing" on [enchantedlearning.com](http://enchantedlearning.com) and learned more about classifying animals by watching a video and doing follow up activities on [brainpopjr](http://brainpopjr.com). Students have begun sorting animals from the class "animal box" into groups (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians & insects) and used reference materials to name and learn facts about 3 specific animals from each group. The boys and girls have learned about the life cycle of the frog through various activities including listening to non-fiction stories, discussing "frog vocabulary words", and identifying & coloring each stage of the frog's life cycle on individual posters. The students agree that animals are awesome, and they are looking forward to learning more about this topic during the next few weeks.

**Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2** - The students in room 207 have a lot to be proud of. We have been reading up a storm for the million minute reading challenge. In the month of October, the students read 11,566 books. During the month of November, the children topped that total with 12,677. We have achieved 100% participation 3 times during the 2 months. Additionally, in library the children had 100% return of their library books 3 times. Keep up the good work and read, read, read!!!

Lucy Ragoza - Reading Specialist

Million Minute Reading Marathon Update

Year-to-Date Minutes Read through November	Year-to-Date Goal	Difference
320,671	250,000	<b>Plus 70,671 Minutes</b>

Congratulations School Street School! We are over 30% there and only 2 months into the program. Year to date we have exceeded our school wide Million Minute Reading Marathon goal by **70,671 minutes!!** Thank you for your continued support of at home read aloud and independent reading time!

The following classes beat their classroom reading goal last week:

Pre-K: Harbeson  
 Kindergarten: Viruet AM and PM classes  
 First Grade: Paulozzo  
 Second Grade: Bariso, Cutugno, Mentone and Shellenhamer  
 Third Grade: Bednar, Kelly, Koval and Davis

We also had three classes last week that achieved 100% class participation. Every single student in the class returned his or her reading log. Way to go!

Pre-K: Harbeson  
 Kindergarten: Viruet PM  
 Second Grade: Mentone

Finally, and importantly, the following classes, one per grade level, earned the coveted Million Minute Reading Marathon Trophy for the month of November for outstanding achievement in reaching their class reading goal.

Pre-K: Harbeson  
 Kindergarten: Pollina AM  
 First Grade: Paulozzo

Second Grade: Shellenhamer

Third Grade: Bednar

Please keep up the at home reading during the month of December. Some of our first grade students in particular are forgetting to return their reading logs. When one student forgets, they entire class suffers. We want everyone to read more at home and to become successful readers. Remember... **Slow and steady wins the race. Read each day; keep up the pace!**

*Mrs. Harbeson - Pre K* - This week, the Bridges to Learning preschoolers continued to have fun with their restaurants theme. They pretended to order food at their favorite restaurants, cook some food for their customers, take orders, and attend to their cash registers. The children listen to stories about restaurants and table manners during Story Lab. They also had fun with their math games: Making Collections, Math Memory, I Have, Who Has Colors, and Remember and Replicate.

*Mrs. Theiller - Pre K* - In Language Arts this week the children practiced voice to line match using our Message of the Day. We say the message, make a line for each word and then write the words on their lines. The children need to determine if there are enough or too many lines for the message. To learn and/or reinforce letter sounds and initial sounds in words, as we write each word, we listen for it's initial sound and use our sound map to find the picture that makes the same sound. We then look at the name of the letter next to the picture and say it's name.

In Math, we used beads to make a two-color pattern. We played I Have, Who Has numbers and Numberline Hopscotch to learn and reinforce numbers 1 - 10 out of sequence. We played Math Memory to help the children learn positional words such as first, middle, last, above and under.