

# School Street School

December 23, 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

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE FACULTY AND  
STAFF OF SCHOOL STREET SCHOOL*

# CLASSROOM NEWS

Dr. Chiodo - Many of our students will have the chance this week to work on functional cooking and utensil skills. Proper knife handling and safety is also a focus. Our older students are working on written organization and keyboarding tasks, while younger students will be addressing visual memory and body part identification.

Mrs. Theiller - Pre K -In Language Arts this week the children continued to make their play plans which included choosing a center, saying what they wanted to do in that center, drawing a picture to remind them of their plan, making lines for the message and writing the initial sound for each word on the correct lines. During this activity, each child worked at his own level, some only making a picture while others were ready to write the initial sounds. The teachers scaffolded each child at his/her level and added one more step.

In Math this week, we practiced counting to 31 using our Timeline Calendar. We practiced counted on from a given number and counted how many days until and how many days since. In Remember and Replicate the children practiced placing playdough forms in different special orientations. They used positional words first, second and third, middle and last, before and after.

Mrs. Giannotti - Pre K - This week, the children completed all their hands-on activities pertaining to the holiday season. We talked about celebrating with family and friends during Share the News, and enjoyed listening to *The Bag I'm Taking to Grandma's* by Shirley Neitzel during Story Lab. We would like to wish you all a peaceful holiday season! Mrs. Giannotti, Mrs. Regan, and Mrs. Roon

Mrs. Davis - Gr. 3 - Our reading goal for December is 425 minutes. It will be due on January 3rd, when we return from vacation.

On winter party is Thursday, December 22.

We are busy completing our *Gingerbread* books that we wrote. Each student picked a character and created their own original version of *The Gingerbread Man*.

We completed a unit on telling time and we are working on multiplication facts. We have learned our basic facts from 0-5.

In reading we are completing a novel *The Littles* and working on literature circles. Each student has a specific role and then they report their job to the group.

In social studies we are mastering the states of the Midwest.

Second Grade - The children in second grade have been learning about different customs and holiday traditions celebrated around the world. As a culminating activity we participated in a celebration called, "The Festival of Traditions."

This is always a fun day for the students because they go to each second grade classroom and do an activity relating to the holidays and traditions we studied, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid, Diwali, Los Posadas, and Russia's Winter Festival. The students learned how the customs and traditions started, and they learned how to accept other peoples' beliefs.

This is a great way for students to begin to understand the differences of people throughout the world. Our program enables students to be accepting and tolerant of others, regardless of their race, or beliefs. The students also discovered how alike many traditions are. For each tradition the students made either a craft, played a traditional game, shared or ate a snack, and learned about the customs and traditions affiliated with the holiday being studied.

Our goal was that the students understand that the most essential quality the customs and traditions share is an emphasis on community, togetherness, caring, and responsibility.

The Second Grade Teachers

Mrs. Wasserman - Winter Break is a great time to get together as a family and start new traditions. You can also use this time to enhance your child's speech skills as well. If your child is working on saying a specific sound correctly, you could help him/her find items with that sound as you are driving or around your house. If your child is working on developing language skills you can describe what activities you are going to do that day, and have him/her talk about it as they are doing it (e.g. making cookies, going shopping, visiting family etc.). Take some time to have conversations with your child about what they would like to do during this time and what they like about the holidays.

Mrs. Baseil - Bridges - This week in Bridges to Learning students are putting the finishing touches on their illustrations for December's Poem of the Month. Fine motor skills have been sharpened while assuming the task of some very intricate cutting for this project. Students have also enjoyed singing holiday songs and discussing what winter means to them. We brainstormed a list of "Winter Words" which will be referred to for future journal writing.

In math, an important new skill was introduced. Children estimated how many "snowballs," aka marshmallows, were in a jar. They recorded their guesses and together we plotted the results in

sequence. To check our guesses we counted the "snowballs" and then enjoyed them! Estimation is a worthwhile and valid math skill to practice at home and children really enjoy it! At home, ask your little mathematicians to estimate a number of objects-----socks, buttons, M&M's, or marbles and you may be surprised by the results!

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?