

# School Street School

December 9, 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

# CLASSROOM NEWS

**Dr. Chiodo** - This week in OT we are going to continue to work on eye-hand coordination using proprioceptive and kinesthetic feedback to enhance the experience. Using window markers and window crayons by Crayola, students will be writing and decorating for the season ahead. And when the time comes, we will be working our muscles when we take down our art work with towels and water - but the only way it will come off clean will be to use a little 'elbow grease.'

**Mrs. Kelly - Gr.3** - In, math with continue to learn how to make change with money in multi-step problems. We are also learning about coordinates and perimeter and will be starting multiplication soon. In reading, guided reading groups have just finished up chapter books and we we do a whole class novel next. In social studies, we are working on map and atlas skills.

**Grade 1** - First grade is enjoying their special program called Babes which happens during our guidance period each week. Miss Bernadette arrives with her puppets who all have special personalities and names. She reads stories about character building and the children get turns to work the puppets. With the puppets they learn how to make better choices. A discussion period follows the story. The children look forward to their turns and learning the lesson from the stories each week.

All of the classes are discussing holiday traditions and customs that are celebrated around the world. One example is that one class learned carols and card giving came from England and the class learned

to sing the Twelve Days of Christmas with hand motions. Here in the USA we are one country with many cultures so learning about each others traditions helps us understand each other better.

We have been taking our second mad minute assessment test with addition and our first one with subtraction. Most children have improved since the beginning of the year in addition but need to keep practicing for speed. Now everyone needs to practice subtraction using our many strategies and flashcards at home would be very helpful.

Please remember to return guided reading books daily, Take 10s every Thursday, and the Million MInute form every Friday. We would like to achieve 100% participation and need parents to help sign off on the minutes. Our goal is 100 minutes a week for each child and a chance to become better readers. The children love hearing their class mentioned over the loud-speaker for reaching the goals.

**Mrs. Baseil - Bridges** - Students in Bridges to Learning investigated measurement when they practiced using inch rulers -----by the way it's "I" week! Young learners noted the length and width of various shapes. We also continued our goal of counting "interesting items" from one to one hundred! Eager scientists observed natural objects thanks to Austin Hudak's dad who contributed many artifacts to our science center. Drop into our room to see an enormous lobster claw, an authentic sea sponge as well as a fake one for comparison, various pulleys, a turtle shell, leaf fossils and honeycomb! This week as we take time to prepare for the upcoming holidays children discussed what peace means to them. Our message to all of you comes from our hearts---yet is spelled out with our hands. Ask your children about our wish for all of you this wondrous season!

**Ms. Spinner** - *Were the students as happy as clowns at a circus when they completed the simile book? Maybe, but then we started the next project and by the end they will be as tired as the people who shopped all day on Black Friday. In math, the students practiced reading and writing numbers with 6 digits. Some even had 7 digits. Would you want 7,208,439 dollars? We also started multiplication mad minutes with one factor from 0 to 5. In reading, students started a gingerbread book project. They read different versions of The Gingerbread Man and then began their own version of the story. In social studies, students continued their USA symbol book by learning about the White House. This weeks Edline challenge is to write the 7 digit number in this weeks news in word and expanded form. If you want, you may email me your answers. Can you tell I LOVE math?*

**Mrs. Viruet - Kindergarten** - This week Mrs. Viruet's kindergarten classes began our first author study. We read books by author/illustrator: Jan Brett. We enjoyed her stories and loved her detailed illustrations. We read: *The Mitten, The Hat, Hedgie's Surprise, Gingerbread Baby, and Honey, Honey... Lion!* Hedgie, the hedgehog, is a character that we quickly realized was a favorite of Jan Brett's!

**Mrs. Shellenhamer - Gr. 2** - Room 206 students are focusing on "subtraction action" for the next few weeks. Students are practicing strategies to help them understand and solve subtraction problems quickly. Strategies include counting back on a number line or in your mind, using related addition facts (fact families) to help in subtraction, and drawing a picture or making a model to help solve subtraction story problems. Students designed "Fact Family Mittens" as a subtraction "warm up" activity. No matter what the season, flash card practice and Spinner Space games are two great ways to review subtraction facts!

**Ms. Cutugno - Gr. 2** - In class we are learning about vowel-consonant-e syllables and will be taking our Foundations test on Friday. In Math, we are learning subtraction strategies such as counting backwards, relating subtraction to addition, fact families, and missing addends. We have started our new unit *Now and Then* in Social Studies. We are discussing the significance of the past, present, and future, every community has a history, and that we learn about the past in many different ways. We have recently finished writing our friendly letters for Writing. Our letters are displayed outside the

classroom in the hallway. It has been yet another successful and eventful week and we look forward to the next!

**Mrs. Bednar - Gr. 3** - Students in Mrs. Bednar's class have been working on place value in Math. They are learning how to write numbers in expanded form and how to use patterns of tens, hundreds, and thousands to add and subtract numbers easily.

**Mrs. Bariso - Gr. 2** - We started learning about different holiday traditions this week. We read about Hanukkah, and discussed Diwali. . We will continue to learn about more cultures and their traditions such as: Christmas, Eid, Los Posados, and the Chinese New Year. Then we will have our Festival of Traditions on Tuesday, December 20th.

**Mrs. Wasserman** - Tis the Season! Speech lessons for the next few weeks will address the different holidays that are celebrated during this time. Students will target their individual goals while participating in activities on Hanukkah, Christmas, Las Posadas, and Eid-ul-Fitr. Some activities are hands-on, such as creating wreaths, and other activities are more discussion-based, such as discussing similarities and differences between the different holidays and their traditions. At home, discuss with your child which holidays you celebrate, and the traditions that you participate in during this festive time of year.

**Mrs. Mentone - Gr. 2** - The children in Mrs. Mentone's class have been completing our unit on animals this week. We have researched an animal including its classification, habitat, size, body covering, food, and two special facts about the animal. We looked at different animals in the different seasons. There was a lesson on the egg, caterpillar, pupa in a chrysalis, and butterfly, which will be displayed at the Showcase of Excellence. We also made models of a food chain, which included the sun, grass, an insect, a lizard, and a hawk. Finally, we played a camouflage game to see how animals protect themselves. The children have enjoyed learning about animals.

**Mrs. Hame - Spanish -**

**Kindergarten:** This week we learned counting to 25 in Spanish and the color verde/green. We read words and made a verde/green things booklet.

**First:** This week we practiced number 0-25 and talked about the exciting celebrations coming up. We read a story about Hanukkah, talked about other cultural celebrations around the world and worked on a coloring activity on Hanukkah and Navidad/Christmas symbols.

**Second:** This week we started our unit on la familia/the family. We practiced feminine and masculine word forms and writing the vocabulary.

**Third:** This week we reviewed food words by saying their names and writing them. We read the story Sabado Sancocho/ Saturday Stew.

**Mrs. Theiller - Preschool** - In Language Arts this week while doing our timeline calendar, we talked about the letters in the name of our new month "December". We said the letters together and sounded out each letter. We identified and made rhyming words. We read Llama Llama Holiday Drama and Llama Llama Misses Mama listening for the rhyming words on each page. We used our message of the day to learn and reinforce initial sounds in words.

In Math this week, we counted to 31 using our timeline calendar. Using our timeline, we practiced finding numbers that comes before and after a given number. We continued to graph our weather

chart using the words: most or fewest when describing the number of days in each column. We used color cubes to make patterns and sort objects by color.

**Mrs. Ragoza - Reading** - All my students read aloud *A Bear for All Seasons* by Diane Marcial Fuchs. In this story, Bear uses all of his senses to describe what he loves about each season. After reading the story, we used our five senses to describe what we love to see, hear, taste, feel and smell in winter. Next we will write a Five Senses poem about winter.

In guided reading, my third graders recently read the famous fable *Henny Penny*. This week they read the folk tale *Stone Soup*. We compared how the clever young man in Stone Soup was sly like the fox in Henny Penny. We are also practicing our vowel teams (two vowels together that make one sound). There are so many vowel teams to learn, and they can be confusing!

My first graders have been practicing reading and spelling their digraphs. They are also working hard on mastering their sight words.

**Mrs. Giannotti - Preschool** - This week our classroom library was stocked with Holiday/Winter theme books. The children enjoyed listening to Millions of Snowflakes by Mary McKenna. In this story, the children were encouraged to actively participate by counting snowflakes, identifying and labeling body parts, and describing what type of clothing we need to wear when the weather gets colder. We continue to work on fine motor, expressive language skills, and imaginative play in each classroom center.

**Mrs. Harbeson - Preschool** - This week the Bridges to Learning preschoolers enjoyed listening to stories about the winter holiday during Story Labs. They continued to work hard on their play plans and sustaining their roles during Make Believe Play Centers. The children learned a new game during Math and Science called I Have, Who Has Shapes.

**Mrs. Wieland** - The children have taken their Mad Minutes of Math tests for Mr. Modla, as well as their writing prompt assessments this week. The 2nd graders worked on a poem titled "Winter" in conjunction with Mrs. Shellenhamer's class. Some of the topics addressed this week include: review answering comprehension questions using the words in the question, using context pictures and clues, critical thinking, dividing compound words, identifying rhyming words, adding a suffix, and following directions - both single and multi-step.

**Math:** The focus continues to be subtraction, as well as column addition, so please practice with the flash cards (addition and subtraction) each night! For the 2nd graders, it will soon be time to start multiplication - that will begin in January!! 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 to one hundred, recognizing patterns, adding up and down, and using what they know to apply to subtraction.