

# School Street School

November 18, 2011



## November Calendar

7,8,9 - Parent Conferences  
Early Dismissal Days  
9 - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period  
10, 11 - No School -Teacher's Convention  
18 - Report Cards sent home  
23 - Early Dismissal  
24, 25 - No School - Thanksgiving Recess



## 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 October** - Mrs. Kelly's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class



Picture retake/absent pictures will be done on November 29, 2011.

Please make note of the following information:

1. There is a \$5.00 fee for retakes unless there is something wrong with the picture (eyes closed, hair falling in eyes, etc.)
2. Retakes will begin at 9:00
3. Any children from the PM kindergarten classes who need retakes or who were absent on Picture day must be brought to school in the morning if you want their picture taken.
4. Any child having retakes **MUST** return the complete original package. Retakes will not be done unless the package is returned.
5. Please call the office at 973-316-9225 to have your child's name put on a list for retakes or absent pictures and to have a picture form sent home with your child.

# CLASSROOM NEWS

**Mrs. Viruet – K** - Mrs. Viruet's kindergarten students have read many books about owls, leaves and turkeys during our autumn theme. We learned that the turkey lives in the forest and eats berries, nuts and seeds. We learned that a calm turkey has a blue face and when the turkey is upset or excited, his face changes color to red, white & blue. The children made their own book called, "Tell Me about Turkeys," that they can read to their families.

**Dr. Chiodo – OT** - Over the next week and a half we will be focusing on two things. From a writing standpoint, we will be using the theme of "What I am thankful for" to address all of our students handwriting goals. Tasks will include writing lists or narratives, organizing lists in priority, and organizing lists in alphabetical order. We will also be discussing food preparation and using measuring cups to follow a recipe to create Thanksgiving Snack Mix. Students will have either a written or picture recipe to follow.

**Grade 1** - We would like to thank all first grade parents for a wonderful turn out at conference time. A child's learning is truly a partnership of the child, parent, and teacher.

The first grade is getting ready for its Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday, November 22. The classes will go to the gymnasium around 10:15am to do a short program of songs, poems, and facts. Parents are welcome to attend the program which should be about 15-20 minutes long. Afterwards the four classes will enjoy a traditional thanksgiving feast together in place of their normal lunch.

After lunch all students will finish a normal day for a Tuesday. Thank you in advance for helping provide the food for the feast and for those parents who are able to help room mothers serve the food to the classes.

First grade Take 10 journals will not be due until Thursday, Dec. 1, due to the holiday weekend. A reminder note will be attached to the journal. Children are encouraged to complete their journals early so you can enjoy the days off.

Everyone is working very hard with reading and math. Reading skills are being improved with guided reading and literacy centers. The students have learned about bonus letters (f,s,and l) and groups of letters call glued sounds which make only one sound. All classes continue to review subtraction strategies and number families.

**Mrs. Giannotti – Pre K** - This week, in keeping with our Family theme, we began talking about the Thanksgiving tradition, and how our families celebrate this holiday. Hands-on activities were presented in each classroom center for the children to experience. These activities were designed to highlight and create a better understanding of how families of many different backgrounds celebrate Thanksgiving. The children also enjoyed listening to Family Time by Jerald Halpern during Story Lab.

**Mrs. Baseil – Bridges** - This week in Bridges to Learning children enjoyed reading November's Poem of the Month, Tree House by Shel Silverstein. After being introduced to the poem students experienced the text in a variety of ways. First, given sentence strips including specific lines from the poem, students matched up the text. Then, they read the poem via echo and shared reading. Finally, the children practiced reading the poem with a partner and creating corresponding illustrations. The finished products will be included in unique poetry books. The "Letter of the Week" is "Gg." Our class "G" word list includes: genius, gorgeous, generosity, grapefruit, galaxy, green, gray, grumpy, gift, go, gold, grill, garage, goat, geese, gorilla, giraffe, grade, golf, gum, good girl, gallon, glacier, gigantosaur, gentleman, glitter-----and last but not least, grandma and grandpa!

**Ms. Spinner – Gr. 3** - Congratulations to the two students who were able to solve last week's Edline challenge. Hmm...what will this week's challenge be? How about a joke? Write down the joke and answer. Then, to complete the challenge explain what the saying "piece of cake" means?

Q. Why did the boy eat his homework?

A. Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

**This week starts a new Take 10 assignment sheet, but students still only need a total of 10 points. Note to complete the mandatory box, students must not only write the definition, but also use the word in a "juicy" sentence.**

Was homework a piece of cake? I doubt homework or classwork was a piece of cake this week! After listening to the book, The Wall by Eve Bunting, the students were inspired to write letters to soldiers thanking them for their service. They also donated an enormous amount of non perishable goods for families in need. What generous students! In math, students learned the place and value of 4 digit numbers. In addition, they practiced writing numbers in standard and expanded form. In language arts, students practiced writing a story with a beginning, middle and end. The middle paragraph should have events which lead up to a problem. The ending paragraph includes attempts at a solution and the final solution. It may also include a lesson learned or an extension question. Next week school is closed Thursday and Friday. After the holiday, the students will start multiplication. Hooray! Remember to read over the holiday!

**Mrs. Bednar – Gr. 3** - Students in Mrs. Bednar's class are learning about different ways to sort numbers. They have learned about ordinal and cardinal numbers as well as odd and even numbers. They are also subtracting and adding 4 digit numbers.

**Ms. Cutugno Gr. 2** - We are adjusting back to a full week of school and are accomplishing a great deal! We are currently learning about fossils in Science, discussing Thanksgiving in Social Studies, reviewing multisyllabic words and suffixes in Foundations, working on addition strategies in Math, and discussing how to write a friendly letter in Writing. In Science, we have created our own leaf fossils made out of clay and are very excited for our next project. Report cards will be sent home on Friday. I hope you have another great week!

**Mrs. Shellenhamer – Gr. 2** - The Thanksgiving holiday is fast approaching! Room 206 students shared their "thankful thoughts" by posting them on the "thankful tree" in the 2nd grade hall. This week they journeyed back in time to learn more about this November holiday. They listened to The Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving, by Ann McGovern, saw the video "Plimoth Plantation, and read and responded to a Thanksgiving poem. They also solved some "Turkey Riddles" and enjoyed reading the

Scholastic News Thanksgiving booklet. The boys and girls are looking forward to sharing a special Thanksgiving breakfast with classmates on Tuesday, November 22. They understand that Thanksgiving is not only about delicious food, but about being together and expressing appreciation for all that we have.

**Mrs. Davis – Gr. 3** - In reading we began a new class novel Tornado. We researched what a tornado is prior to reading. In writing we are creating similes to use in their written passages. The students worked in cooperative groups to choose 3 similies, write them in original sentences, and illustrate them.

In math we began telling time, and multiplication facts. We are continuing with addition and subtraction facts.

In Social studies we are using cardinal and intermediate directions.

**Mrs. Bariso – Gr. 2** - In Room 205 we are talking about how different life was in the colonial times, and are reading stories about children from that time period. We will be writing stories comparing and contrasting our times to theirs.

In science we are learning about the digestive system, and how amazing our bodies are.

**Mrs. Mentone – Gr. 2** - The children in room 207 have begun thinking about Thanksgiving. We have read a book having to do with Thanksgiving. It is about a young boy named Samuel Eaton who lived in Plimoth Plantation in the year 1627. The children have also written what they are thankful for in our monthly hallway writing. We also "Talked Turkey" with Mrs. Wasserman. In addition, we have discussed being thankful for and honoring our veterans who served in the armed forces through our little "Veteran's Day" book and through our Scholastic News.

**Mrs. Theiller – Pre K** - This week in math the children played Making Collections which teaches/reinforces one to one correspondence with 1 - 10 objects. We played Remember and Replicate which teaches/reinforces positional words such as first, last and middle, and reinforce the following concepts: small, large and medium. We reinforced counting skills during our math story lab reading 10 Black Dots.

In language arts this week to learn/reinforce initial sounds in words,we used our Message of the Day and played I have Who Has Names. We read Is Your Mama a Llama and Engine Engine No. 9 to learn about rhyming words.

**Mrs. Kovall – Gr. 3** - Have you ever felt good about doing something for someone else? This week room 208 is focusing on good deeds and giving back in honor of Veteran's Day. We have read the book The Wall by Eve Bunting. As a class we inferred throughout the book, focused on unfamiliar vocabulary words, and the feelings of others. As a class we discussed different good deeds we can do to thank our veterans. The class has written positive, inspiring letters to our servicemen and are eager to mail them. In math we are finishing up money and will be reviewing place value. In reading we are in our guided reading groups focusing on making connections throughout the stories.

### Lucy Ragoza – Reading

#### Million Minute Reading Marathon Update

| Year-to-Date Minutes Read | Year-to-Date Goal | Difference          |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 233,678                   | 190,000           | Plus 43,678 Minutes |

Year to date we have exceeded our school wide Million Minute Reading Marathon goal by **43,678 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:

Kindergarten: Viruet PM

Second Grade: Bariso, Cutugno, Mentone and Shellenhamer

Third Grade: Bednar, Kelly and Koval

Last week was a short week, so many students forgot to return their reading logs. We are really pushing for 100% class participation so that every student in the school benefits from reading support at home! To encourage ALL the students to bring back their logs, I am giving small rewards to each class that returns ALL of its logs. Congratulations to Mrs. Viruet's PM kindergarten class for being the only class in the school that returned all of its logs.

Please remember that next week is another short week so reading logs are due the Monday after Thanksgiving - Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. These logs will determine which class in each grade level earns the reading trophy for the month of November! Please continue to read over the Thanksgiving break and have a fabulous time with your families! Slow and steady wins the race. Read each day; keep up the pace!

**Mrs. Harbeson - Pre K** - This week the Bridges to Learning Preschool classroom transformed into six different restaurants: a fancy restaurant, a pizzeria, a cafeteria, a drive-thru McDonald's, a sit-down McDonald's and an ice-cream and sweets shop. The children worked really hard creating realistic props for the restaurants. They also visited the school cafeteria to see how it works and looks. The local McDonald's gave us many paper supplies so the children can use them in the restaurants. The boys and girls began to learn all the different roles necessary to make our play theme a success.

**Mrs. Wieland** - LA/Reading: The students in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades have been practicing writing words and sentences as dictated by the teacher. They have been practicing reading and writing their trick words from Foundations, using them in sentences, as well as studying blends. All of the children have completed their writing prompt for the month. Additionally, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are practicing the art of RAFT, by using words embedded in comprehension questions to compose answers. The children have also been writing responses to questions along with completion of cloze sentences, following read-alouds.

Math: The focus is now subtraction, which is not as rewarding for the children, because they feel like they are starting over! While it is true that at this point, they do not know the subtraction facts nearly as well, the only way to make sense of them and begin to commit them to memory, is to practice at home every night! The children are drawing pictures to further develop their understanding of word problems, as well as differentiating between the need for addition or subtraction; key words and phrases are being taught. Picture graphs, counting by 5, less than and greater than, and 2 to 3 digit subtraction problems without regrouping are current areas of interest in Math. These have been introduced, but as with most everything in Math, the children will continue to revisit these same areas throughout the year. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts every night, on weekends, and yes, even during vacations! Multiplication begins in January!

**Ms. Pollina - K** - Kindergarten students have been busy learning about squirrels this week. We've learned what they like to eat, where they live, and how squirrels use their tails as blankets, umbrellas, and even to help them balance. We created squirrels and wrote sentences about them. We also been practicing songs for our upcoming Thanksgiving Performance on Tuesday.