

November/December

Mrs. Whitacre's First Grade News

December is a busy month. The weather has been very unpredictable and it seems as though many of us were not ready. We still like to have the children get fresh air whenever possible. We will have outside recess on any day the weather is not too cold or wet. Please send warm clothes, hats, gloves or mittens, and boots. Many of the children also bring snow pants. They may certainly go out without them but it is much easier to stay dry.

December is also a good month to replenish the desk supplies. Please check to see if your child has a good set of crayons and some adequate pencils. I know many of you started the year with extra pencils or have sent them periodically, thanks. Pencils, crayons and markers make good stocking stuffers.

Math Our Muskie Math has been steadily improving even though the facts are getting more difficult. Every Thursday the four-part practice sheet should come home completed. We correct Monday - Wednesday at school. The students correct their own so you may want to double check to see if they are catching their errors and then check Thursday's practice at home and return the paper to school. As I circulate around the room they appear to be doing a great job. We are working on a geometry unit until Christmas break. We are studying both 3D and 2D figures and will finish with fractions. We mainly discuss $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$.

Spelling Please encourage your child to continue writing the spelling words on Monday and returning the written list to school. A quick review at night will also help prepare them for the test on Friday. We do a practice review on Thursday together at school. We work on both spelling and handwriting in this review.

AR The students are reading more and more independently. I have been very excited with the motivation of this group. They are a super bunch of readers. We have read and tested on 1405 books since September. They are testing at an average of 90% correct and the average book level for the year has been **1.9 (wow)**. It is also wonderful to see how they read with and help each other.

Special Dates:*****

Grant School Holiday Program

When: Thursday, December 2, 2010

Where: Central Middle School Auditorium

Time: 7:00

Classroom Holiday Parties

When: December 22, 2010

Where: Mrs. Whitacre's Classroom

Time: (About) 1:30

Room parents will be organizing the party. If you signed up to help, you should hear from Mrs. Yerington. There will be a small gift exchange. Boys please bring a gift for a boy and girls for a girl. Please limit the gift to no more than \$3.00.