

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MRS. ABBOTT'S KINDERGARTEN

November 23, 2010

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the wonderful art projects going home today! The turkeys and placemats turned out beautifully. I hope you enjoy them in your home as well.



November has been a very busy month as usual in kindergarten. We have learned about the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving traditions during the past several weeks. We made Pilgrim hats, and heard much related literature to gain an understanding of how Thanksgiving began. We also discussed the Thanksgiving of today. We ended this theme with a feast in our reading buddies classroom.

The Leader In Me program has been a wonderful addition to our room and Grant School. As you have seen we have worked on the foundations and habit one, "Be Proactive". I am seeing

the children use the vocabulary and they are off to a great start. We will continue to send parent information as each habit is introduced.

After Thanksgiving we will begin Christmas activities with a focus on Gingerbread literature. I will use various Gingerbread Man stories such as the New York version, the Cajun version and my favorite, the southern version. Let me know if you have different versions of this story. We will be graphing and comparing story elements. The children will complete gingerbread man related activities. We will be making a giant Gingerbreadman who runs away. After he is found the children will decorate and eat the gingerbread man.

Thanksgiving

During the month of November we learned the letters: M, and I.

During M week we read, "Mouse a Cookie" and "Moose a Muffin". We learned about the Mayflower, and graphed our favorite M story. The word building included words that end in

_am. The sight word was "is".

During I week we read "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and played sound substitution with the title. We read nonfiction about insects. Our word building focused on words that end in _id, _in and _im. The sight word was "said". During the past week we have reviewed all letters covered thus far with an emphasis on word building activities.



On November 29th we will begin work on the letter and sound of "T". The children will hear nonfiction on turtles and trains, write in turtle journals and break words into individual sounds on a train game sheet. The sight word will be "we". Word building will be words ending in _at and _it.

During the week of December 6th we will learn the letter

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and sound of "C" - just in time for Candy Canes! The sight word will be "are".

Vocabulary words introduced thus far include the, a, my, that, an, and, I, is, and said. We will add the words we are, you and have in the coming weeks.

In math the children have learned how to count and write numerals to 10, comparing numbers to 10, ordering numerals to 10 and ordinal numbers through tenth. We had our chapter test this week and will begin a study on measurement after Thanksgiving. I always include higher level thinking questions in our calendar activities and have been very pleased with the children's understanding in comparing how many more, how many less, etc. They are doing a great job.



The children are really learning and loving their work as scientist in our wood unit!

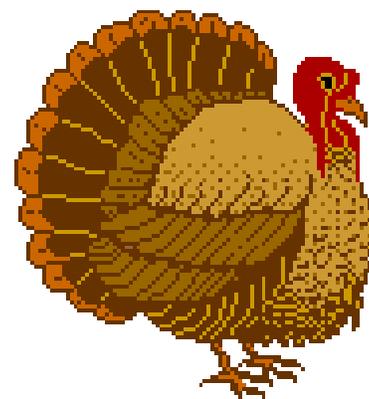
When I write in the morning message that we will be doing a wood experiment I hear cheers. Ask your child to tell you about this unit.

December will be a very busy month with holiday activities. As always parents are always welcome to visit and help in the classroom. If you have a special holiday art project or cooking activity that you would like to do with the children please let me know. I have many activities that we could do with an extra pair of hands in the classroom.

Our Christmas program will be on December 2nd at Central Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. if you want to get a good seat. The children should stay with their parents until the music teacher announces for them to come to the stage. We are usually the first ones to sing. After they sing they will return to sit with you and enjoy the rest of the show. Mrs. Sands does a wonderful job every year! Everyone has been working hard so please plan to stay and enjoy all of the class performances.

Our Christmas party will be on December 22 at 2:30 p.m. The children may buy a

gift for the gift exchange. The gift should cost no more than \$3.00. Girls should bring a gift for a girl and boys should bring a gift for a boy. Please label the gift "To a (boy/girl) from (name)". We will draw numbers to see which gift the children receive. If you could send the gifts by December 20th I can count and make sure there will be a gift for everyone to open at the party.



At this time of the year we all reflect on all for which we have to be thankful. I have much to be thankful for in a terrific group of children and a wonderful group of parents to work with. Each day I look at the children and I am so grateful to be working with these children each day! Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

I ♥ Teaching

Rita Abbott