



Lucy V.
Barnsley Elementary School

Fifth Grade Center
News



December, 2011



Black Friday is over and calendar pictures have been changed from turkeys to snowflakes as we welcome December. While the temperature is dropping, we want to make sure that students' study habits and grade point averages do not follow suit! Please encourage your children to complete all of their assignments on time and with the same enthusiasm as they have for winter break! Teachers are looking forward to vacation, too, so let's all work together to have an outstanding December!

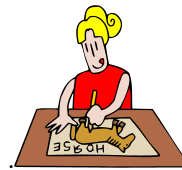
In **reading**, we are focusing on survival stories and students are noticing that survivors often possess similar

characteristics to the heroes about whom we read in our last unit.

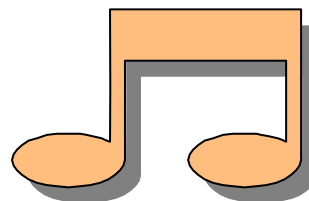


We will also be reading and discussing poetry.

In **writing** we finished our potlatch presentations, which were wonderful. We will soon begin our personal narratives project. Students will focus on important aspects of their lives and create a tri-board report. Details will be coming soon!



LAR- We are continuing with Wordly Wise and Classical Roots. Our 3rd public speaking is a non-fiction article. Has your child been practicing at home? In writing, we will still focus on the 6 traits of writing, but we will be doing more writing as we tie it in to music and art.



Math A- Math 6 continues with a lengthy unit on decimals, fractions, percents and integers. The first portion of the Unit 2

County Test was administered last week and the second portion will be given in January.



Math B-Unit 2 has been a long one and we are just about ready to take our unit test. Students will receive a "Study Buddy Packet" to help them review all of the concepts that were covered. Unit 3 will focus on geometric relationships. Students will be using protractors and compasses in addition to calculators and rulers.



IM-Area of Regular Polygons? Volume of a Sphere? Students are having fun exploring the world of geometry, 2 and 3 dimensional figures, and lots of formulas!

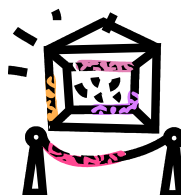


Science- Parachutes have been grounded and we are now on to lighting up our lives with the electricity and magnetism unit. Students are learning about different types of electricity and how the simplest touch can be shocking! We will also be exploring magnets and we will create electromagnets.



Social Studies-In Social Studies, students participated in a fun and exciting scavenger hunt, which led them to clues about the Boston Massacre. They are now in the beginning phases of the Boston Massacre Historical Investigation where they are trying to uncover who was to blame, the colonists or the soldiers. Students are working in groups on this in class project which is due on the 8th of December. Stay tuned...

We will be taking a field trip to the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History. You should have received information and permission slips. Parent volunteers are welcome. Please send in the permission slip and money on or before the December 15th!



Electives:



After pantomiming, role playing, and getting to know each other, we have moved on to real plays. We are practicing and preparing to perform 2 historical fiction plays. One is about the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and centers around George Washington crossing the Delaware.

-In Arts and Crafts we have explored creating projects using recyclable or basic household materials. We will be finishing with paper mache projects.

In addition, final projects will include a 5th grade newspaper, military history personal presentations, original brain game creations and a choral concert.



Congratulations to:



Jarrett Clark
Rachel Frampton
Arthi Thyagarajan
Abdul Ahmed
Grace Wu
Gracie Zhou

For earning 15 Cougar Coupons for the month of November!



Important Dates:

December 13th -progress reports

December 15th- winter concert

December 21st- field trip to the National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of American History

December 24-Jan 2- winter break



