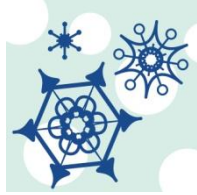


First Grade Newsletter

December 2011



Dear Parents,

READING We will be reading to determine the story elements of *characters, setting, problem and solution* as well as identifying the character traits of the main characters.

In addition, we will be reading **non-fiction books** and identifying text features, such as *labels, captions, contents and chapter headings*.

MATH In the second math unit, we will begin mastery of basic facts. Your child will continue to bring home basic Math facts to practice. We begin with learning several strategies that help the children solve problems quickly. These strategies include the order property ($3 + 2 = 5$ and $2 + 3 = 5$) and counting on, adding one, adding zero etc.

We will continue to work on word problems in addition and subtraction, as well as the meaning of the = sign and learning to write equations and fill in the missing number. We will also work on fact families.

SOCIAL STUDIES We are learning about cultures around the world and comparing them to our own. We have been talking about our families and our own customs and making a book about it.

GO FOR THE GOLD Brooke Grove's reading incentive program is called 'Go for the Gold.' Every first grader should be reading each night and recording their minutes on the calendars that came home at the beginning of November. Since reading for 10 minutes (or more) each night is part of first graders homework nightly and those reading group books and poetry notebooks come home frequently, it should

be easy to rack up the minutes! Be sure to send in the calendar for December on January 3rd.

HELP NEEDED! Now that colder weather is here coats fill our coatrooms. Your child should be able to put their coats on themselves, including zippers, snaps etc. Be sure to put your child's name in their coat. Hats and gloves should go into pockets! If your child cannot tie yet please start working on that. We encourage children to help other boys and girls, but those who can take care of themselves are very proud of their self-reliance. Finally, please be sure to check over your child's homework each night. Even if it is done at daycare, you should see it.

We really appreciate those parents who are reviewing the children's work, helping them read all sight words on their papers and to finish anything that is incomplete and return it to their teachers. These are important skills that will take your child throughout the school years. If your child knows you will be looking at their work with a critical eye, they will do their best right from the beginning. You are telling them that what they do at school **IS IMPORTANT**.

All of us wish all of you a wonderful holiday season full of good times with your families and friends!

The First Grade Team

