



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending our scheduled conferences. We found the exchange of information very helpful and we hope you did too. It was a pleasure to see you once again, some of you for the first time!

December will be another short, but active, month. We realize that it is a very busy time for many of you. Please try to keep on schedule at home so that your child can remain relatively calm during this hectic time. Set a special time and place for homework and return it on time. We are impressed with the responsibility you have assumed in helping your child return homework and forms on time. Thanks so much.

Please take time to clean out your child's folder each night. Notices and Letters are yours to keep. Checked homework is yours to keep and review. Guided Reading books are coming home in a labeled zip lock bag. Please listen to your child read this book to you. Sign and make comments on the enclosed sheet. Return the book and your comment sheet in the bag the next day.

Library books come home and are returned once a week on Tuesdays in Mrs. Bentz' s class, and on Wednesday's in Mrs. Fuss' class. These books have a scanner strip on the back and will not be in the folder. Every week we will return our books to the Media Center and check out another one.

In language arts, we will continue to read and write letters of the alphabet and increase our awareness of the letter-sound relationship to the reading process. When listening to stories, we will be discussing the characters, setting, and sequence of events. We will reinforce good reading strategies—picture clues, letter sounds, checking that it makes sense, etc. We will be using our reading skills when we are writing. We will be listening for likenesses in words and parts of words. We will concentrate on the names and sounds of the letters we will emphasize—Ll, Zz, Dd, and Ss.

We will reinforce our 1st Quarter word wall words- *I, a, the, and, me, you, look, see, and like*. We will introduce the 2nd Quarter word wall words -*to, in, is, it, my, we, at, and up*. Practice these at home. If your child can read these words already, then he/she should practice spelling them. Your child should be aware of a period, explanation point, and question mark.

Our Folktale Celebration will be on Wednesday, December 22 at 2:00 PM. It is a fun filled afternoon of singing and decorating Gingerbread houses. We hope that you will be able to join us.

In math, we will be counting through and beyond 31 to identify the number of objects in a set. We will identify and create sets of objects with more, less or equal amounts. Practice using these terms at home with your child. We will learn to count by 2's and by 5's. We will also learn to recognize odd and even numbers of objects.

All children go outside for recess each day. Now that winter weather is here, please send your child to school with warm outerwear. It is helpful if items are labeled. The heat is on in our building but the temperature from one room to the next can vary. Please layer your child's clothing for school or send a sweatshirt or sweater to wear in class.

We want to thank the many parents who have worked in the classroom and at home doing special projects. We could not do the job without your help. We are lucky to have you at Brooke Grove. Remember to call the school or write a note ahead of time if you are unable to come to school to volunteer on your scheduled day. If we know in advance, it is helpful in planning our day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please write a note or call the school and leave a message.

Have a great December! Enjoy the winter break! Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team