

DECEMBER 2011
GR. 2 – MRS. VANDE KRAATS

Dear Parents,

Wow!! The winter months are already here and it is beginning to feel like it too. I can't believe that Christmas is right around the corner and that we are a third of the way through the school year. Time flies when you are having fun. This is just a note to let you know what is going on this month.

Clothing : Winter is coming, and along with it comes a lot of extra clothing that gets worn to school. Please label all of your child's clothing that they bring so that if it gets misplaced it can be returned to them more easily. If you haven't sent in a plastic basket (the one that was asked for at the beginning of the school year, on the school supply list) please do so, as your child will be putting his/her mitts and hats in there when they take them off. It is really hard to keep track of 17 pairs of mitts and hats and these baskets will help with this process.

Operation Christmas Child: As you know, our class spearheaded Operation Christmas Child (the shoebox campaign). Our goal was to fill at least one box per classroom. This goal was exceeded, as we were able to fill 77 shoeboxes and cover \$125.00 of the shipping costs. This was the school total and we were very grateful to those who participated. Our class helped pack at least half of these boxes and they got to help create boxes for children in all of the age groups. On Wednesday November 23rd the EMS vehicles came and picked up all of these boxes and all of the students in the school formed a line up and down the hallway and each box was passed from student to student out to the EMS vehicle. Each student got to touch each box that was created, before it went off to a less fortunate child in another country. Watch the West Lincoln News for a write up. Thank you to the parents and students who generously donated items and money for this endeavour. It was an enlightening experience for the students who were able to help create a gift box for a child less fortunate than themselves. It helped some of them realize how lucky they are.

Christmas Festivities: I can't believe it is already that time of year. I hear that Christmas at Jacob Beam always brings many fun activities and here are a list of some of them: December 9th is Gingerbread Shop, December 20th is the Christmas Concert at 1:45 and 6:00, December 21st Carol Singing at 9:00, December 22nd Carol Singing at 1:45 and December 23rd is Red and Green Day, Carol singing in the morning along with our December Recognition Assembly. Lastly, on the last day of school before the holidays we will be having a class Christmas Party. We will be doing activities, maybe watching a video, and eating lots of goodies. The students will also be bringing home with them that day a gift that they have made for you. It will be wrapped and I will be encouraging them to put it under the tree when they get home. Just like them you will have to wait to see what they have made you.

Reading: Your child should have brought home his/her take home leveled reading program (in a clear envelope with a leveled book and a reading log). If your child is not in my Reading Success group, I have talked with their Reading Success Teacher and made sure the level they are bringing home matches what they are working on in their Reading group. The expectations for this program were typed in the front page of the log book that came home with the leveled book. This envelope should travel between home and school on **Monday's** of each week. Please keep the book for the whole week and have your child **read it more than once** (it can only count in their reading log once), as rereading will help develop your child's fluency (making it sound like talk) and their comprehension (understanding of what they read). If you have any questions about this program please feel free to contact me (Susan.VandeKraats@dsbn.edu.on.ca).

Curriculum Coverage: In **Math** we will be finishing up our unit on Number Sense and Numeration and begin working on a unit on “2 Dimensional Geometry”. The overall expectations for this unit are: identify 2 dimensional shapes and sort and classify them by their geometric properties (number of sides, number of vertices (corners)) and their non geometric properties (colour, size), compose and decompose 2 dimensional shapes, describe and represent the relative locations of objects (beside, to right of). We will be finishing up our unit on “Liquids and Solids” in Science and moving on to another unit in **Social Studies**. We will be beginning a unit on “Traditions and Celebrations.” The overall expectations for this unit are: demonstrate an understanding that Canada is a country of many cultures, use a variety of resources and tools to gather, process and communication about similarities and differences among family traditions and celebrations, explain how the various cultures of individuals and groups contribute to the local community. In **Language** the students will continue working weekly on grammar (ie. capitals, periods, question marks, nouns, verbs etc.), more difficult sound work (long vowels), writing (focusing on recounts), word work activities, and the writing trait of voice (writing based on the audience you have in mind).

Things You Can Do to Help: Over the course of the month and over the two weeks of holidays please continue to read with your child nightly and practise his/her Word Wall Words (spelling and reading). There could be a lot of people with a great change in their reading logs when they return from the break. Create Addition and Subtraction Math Packs, that were given out a Parent/Teacher Interviews, and work on making these facts known automatically (no finger use to figure them out). This will help the students work through our unit in Addition and Subtraction (shortly after Christmas) with a better understanding of these concepts. Writing simple or more complex sentences nightly (even if it is just about what they did on that day) will help them be more confident in writing activities. Letting them independently sound out words they can't spell, reinforcing the spelling of word wall words and appropriate use of punctuation is also important. They should also be encouraged to reread their written work when they are done looking for editing mistakes. Lastly, enjoy your holidays together and get lots of sleep. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!!!**

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