



December Newsletter



The winter season has arrived with all of its joys and excitement. Thank you to all of the parents who came in to sit down and review your child's progress report. Continuing to foster this communication between home and school will make a positive difference to your child's educational experience.

Curriculum Focus

Over the course of the month we will be focusing on Gingerbread and Holiday Celebrations. We will have several opportunities to practise our crafting skills; cutting, gluing, painting and creative planning, while continuing to focus on our phonics programme. We will be continuing with reviewing the Lightning Words. The goal is to know these words, "by sight" (without sounding out) to support reading fluency. Practising these words for just a couple of minutes each evening will likely prove time well spent!

In Math, we have been focusing on number sense and formations. Students tend to struggle with this skill and often reverse the direction of numbers; patience and practise will eventually rectify these mistakes so don't become frustrated if your child is having difficulty. All attempts need to be celebrated! The students have been working very hard on number quantity (more/less/same) as well using number lines and dice. Next we will be using our sorting and number skills to collect data and make graphs.

Our science unit this month will continue to focus on exploring and investigating the seasons and weather.

In Music, we have been working on our song and poem for the Christmas Concert. The children will soon be bringing home a little booklet to practise at these at home.

Important Dates:

Monday Dec. 6 - Scholastic Book Orders Due *Please let me know if any books are gifts and I will make sure to keep the surprise! *Orders should arrive before the Winter Break for Christmas Gifts*

December 9 - Gingerbread shop (more info will be coming)

December 20 - Christmas Concert 1:45, 6:00 pm performances

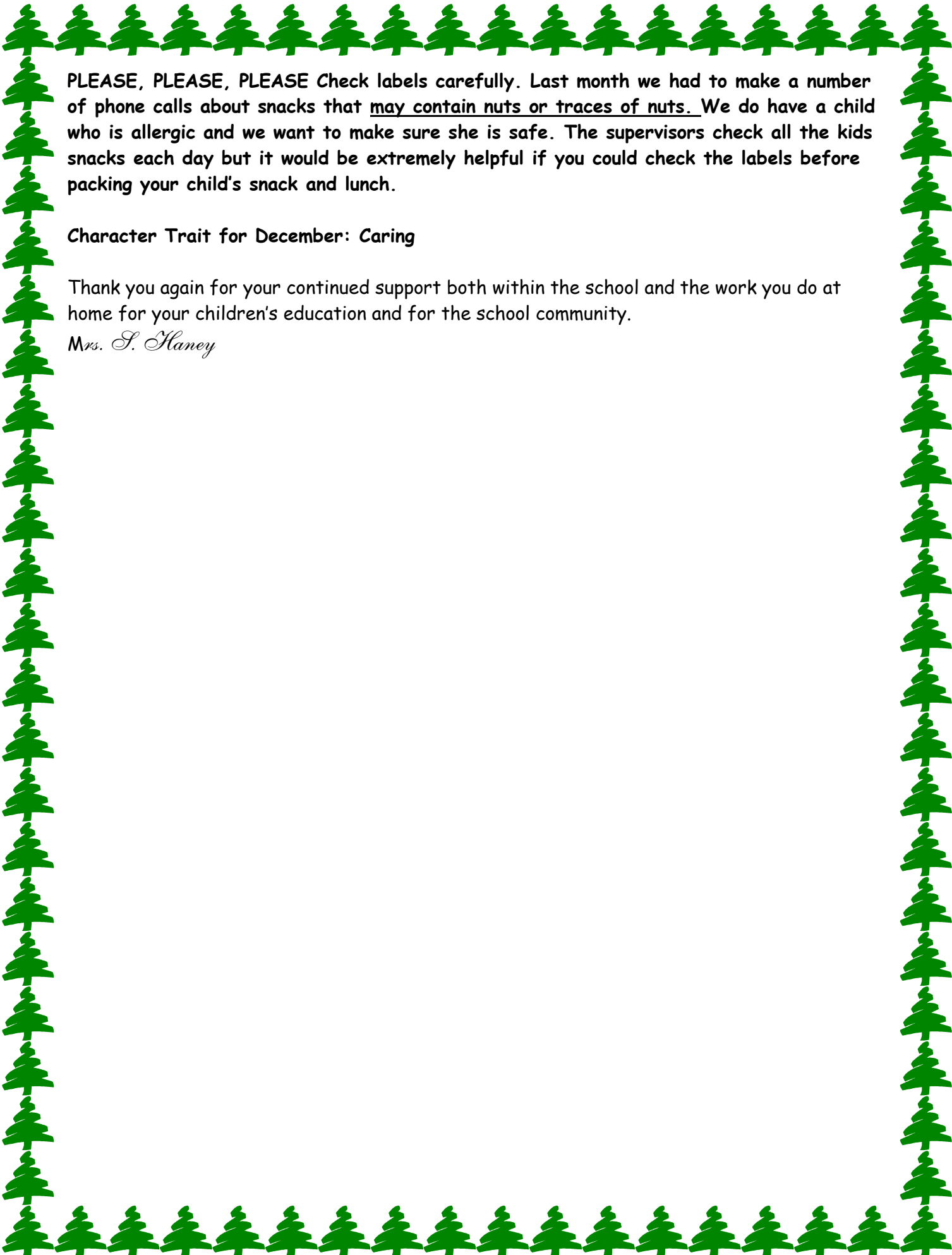
December 23 - Last Day of Class before Winter Break -- Class Party!

December 24 - January 8 WINTER BREAK (SCHOOL CLOSED)

January 9 - First Day back to school in 2012!

Reminder

With the weather changing rapidly and winter knocking on our doorstep, we are also focusing on independence with regards to students getting dressed and undressed in outdoor clothing. Class time is very valuable and we hope to minimize the amount of time spent in the cloakroom. It would be *extremely helpful* if students practised putting on and taking off their winter clothing, *doing up zippers* independently, as well as, correcting sleeves that have been turned inside-out. Also, as more and more snow pants, mittens and toques arrive at school, it is essential that all garments sent to school are **labeled** with the child's name to alleviate confusion and tears! Thank you for your cooperation.



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE Check labels carefully. Last month we had to make a number of phone calls about snacks that may contain nuts or traces of nuts. We do have a child who is allergic and we want to make sure she is safe. The supervisors check all the kids snacks each day but it would be extremely helpful if you could check the labels before packing your child's snack and lunch.

Character Trait for December: Caring

Thank you again for your continued support both within the school and the work you do at home for your children's education and for the school community.

Mrs. S. Haney