



Mrs. Kiser's Kindergarten Newsletter

December 14th, 2007



Holidays Around the World

This week and next we will be studying Holidays Around the World. As we study the different countries' customs, we have been reading non-fiction books and locating the countries on the globe. The students will be learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Hmong New Year, Las Posadas, St. Lucia Day, and Christmas in Germany. The kindergartners will be each making a gingerbread house next week with their Third Grade buddies. Decorating gingerbread houses is a custom from Germany. We will be reading several versions of The Gingerbread Man.

Language Arts

Throughout the week the kindergartners have been working on **summarizing** stories I read to the class. The students helped complete a story map listing the books' characters, setting, the problem and the solution. We read Goodnight Owl and the children enjoyed acting this story out.

During Writer's Workshop we are continuing to work on making our writing easier for others to read. My focus has been on **leaving spaces** between words. I encourage the students to use their finger to hold the space.

During Academic Choice the students have been **practicing reading and writing high frequency words**. Some of the activities include: Word Bingo, stamping words, building sentences using simple words, and making words using letter tiles. I am including a list of Kindergarten High Frequency Words on the back of this newsletter.

Math

This week I introduced the concept of **symmetry** to the students. They cut and drew symmetrical shapes. The kindergartners searched the classroom for items that are symmetrical. We are continuing to work on solving **number stories**. I concentrated on problems that changed to less (subtraction) this week. In order for students to solve these problems with ease, they need to be able to **count backwards**. This is a skill that can easily be practiced at home or on the go! At the Math Center the children matched up dominoes to number cards. If you are looking for a mathematical gift for your child, dominoes and playing cards have lots of fun possibilities.

Announcements

- **Grades 2 & 4 Concert** on Tuesday, Dec. 18th at 6:30
- We will be building and decorating **gingerbread houses** with our Third Grade buddies Dec. 19th and 20th. Please send an item for decorating our little houses by Monday, December 17th. Thank you!
- We will be having our **Holidays Around the World Party** on Friday, December 21st from 1:30-2:30. If you are able to **come in and volunteer**, I would greatly appreciate it. Please call or write a note, to let me know. Thanks!
- **No School:** Winter Break — December 24-January 1 Classes resume on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2008!
- This will be my last newsletter before Winter Break. I hope your family has a fun and safe break. See you in the New Year!

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