

December 6, 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family. The next few weeks can become overwhelming for children and adults alike. We try to have a routine in our school as long as possible, but recognize the excitement the children get this time of year. Know that we share the excitement for the holiday season as well.

The students were very excited to return and see all of their friends. The snow at the beginning of the week added to that excitement as well. We started a new calendar routine with position words (under, inside, behind, beside, to the left, to the right). We are also learning about different traditions around the world during this time of year.

During our Second Step lessons we are learning about being assertive in a positive way. We practice our posture (face the person, head up and shoulders back) and tone of voice (calm, firm voice, respectful words). This is the best way to ask for help from someone. We practiced "**Excuse me. Can you please help me _____?**" This is good to practice at home as well.

In our Readers Workshop we began using our Super Powers for reading this week. We learned about using our pointers to point to each word as we read something. It is great to see the excitement around our classroom as they use the strategies we are learning about. Their faces light up as they experience this new skill. There will be more to come in the upcoming weeks and months.

In math, we are continuing to practice those counting skills. We will be doing another math assessment after the holidays and will be changing the focus of our math groups. Some students will be changing groups and others might stay with the same adult, but change the focus. This a great time to see a lot of growth.

Today was our first of four student recognition assemblies. Students are recognized for doing something that is safe, responsible or respectful. Each student will receive a certificate by the end of the year and their picture taken to hang in the front hallway.

With the new snow this week, some students have not been bringing sneakers to wear in the classroom. Please be sure to send shoes with your child each day. If you would prefer to keep them in their cubbies, it is fine with me for them to do this. Please continue to practice with your child if they struggle to get dressed independently. Many are doing great with this task! Thanks for supporting this, it helps all of us in the end. Keep practicing tying shoes as well. This can be tricky, but they will eventually get this as well.

We were sending home the apple picking trip book and somehow it didn't return from someone a few weeks back. If you have this at home please return it as I have a couple of students who have not had a chance to take it home yet. Thanks to everyone who kept it going throughout the fall.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 6: Book Order Due (last one before the holidays) - Due Today!

Dec. 7: PTA Craft Fair- 9-2- no pta meeting this month

Dec. 18: Winter Concert 6:30 (Snow Date Dec. 19)

Dec 23: Holiday Break, School reopens on Jan. 6, 2020

Have a great weekend!