

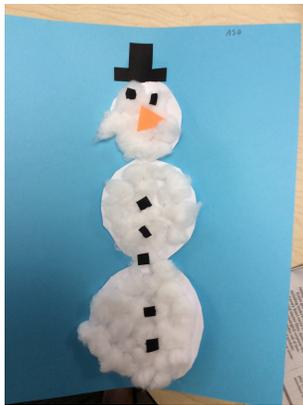
# Kindergarten



*A holiday and winter decoration for our door and cubby area.*



*Ava in our dramatic play lab coat.*



Dear Families,

It appears that we are really beginning the winter season -- with some slippery roads and a snowy

playground. Please remember that students need all that wonderful extra winter clothing to go outside to play: snow pants, boots, coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. Thanks to Liz York and others, we have a few extra pieces of clothing but sometimes the fit isn't perfect.

In the classroom we have been doing a mix of some winter and holiday projects, while also continuing our work on the academics. In math we are have started to learn about addition, both the idea behind putting quantities together as well as writing the correct symbols and addition sentences. Sometimes we work on addition ideas when we line up to travel to another class, with me holding up my fingers and asking something like: "What's two plus three?" This is a nice way for kids to begin hearing addition ideas, and also to start learning and memorizing.

In reading we continue to work on short repetitive books, both photocopied stories from the reading site "A to Z," as well as some purchased guided reading texts. Students are beginning to recognize some sight words such as we, a, I, is and to. With both our group and read aloud texts we talk about characters and lessons and make predictions as the story moves along.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 15:  
Holiday Concert: 6:30pm

Thursday, December 22:  
Early Release: Noon  
Mrs. Dutton and Mrs. Lewis will be taking care of a small holiday celebration for the kids that morning!

Please take a look at the lost and found rack -- I have tried to bring the kids by to look for items but the collection is growing faster than we can keep track of!

This last week we began our own Elf Kindness advent calendar, and each day we have opened a "door" on the calendar to find out what our kind act of the day is going to be. On Monday we gave boxes of sharpened pencils to the middle school teachers; on Tuesday we handed out milk to people at lunch; on Wednesday we gave stickers to the students in grades 1 and 2; on Thursday we colored holiday cards for Veterans; and today we helped clean up the school and emptied trash. This weekend the students have acts to do as well -- tell a family member 5 things they like about them, and draw a picture for someone. I told the kids that this was their homework this weekend -- you are welcome to make sure they do it!

I know that this can be a pretty hectic time of year, and I hope that we can keep our days at school predictable and normal for the kindergartners. I have already noticed some challenging behaviors in the group, and we are really working on remembering to take slow breaths and think about the people around us before we act. I hope that for the next two weeks we can keep the kiddos happy and healthy, and I will do my best here at school to keep the classroom fun and happy, while also safe and focused.

Have a wonderful weekend -- stay warm!

--Elizabeth