

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWS



Hello Room 2 Families!

I can't believe it is already Thanksgiving ... time sure does fly by!!! Thanks so much for your help with the class turkey and your feather! We really enjoyed sharing all the wonderful things that we are thankful for, and the the display looks great!!! During the next few weeks, we will be discussing family traditions and/or holidays and sharing and displaying all of the completed banners as they come to school.

On Wed., Nov. 21, there is a HALF DAY and NO LUNCH, and students will be dismissed at 12:05 (not 1:05). You do not need to pack a snack either.

Students have been learning about the first Thanksgiving and times of long ago and the many differences between then and now. Our **SOCIAL STUDIES** units include learning about our school and community, holidays, famous people in our world, and times of long ago and today. Students are very surprised that the Pilgrims and Native Americans did not have electricity, stores, video games, computers, iphones, tablets, etc., and we talked about how technology, inventions, and machines make our life much easier today! We watched videos of times of long ago and how different times used to be. We also compared how some things are still the same or just changed a little bit. Ask your child to tell you what he/she has learned about the first Thanksgiving and how long it lasted.

During **READING** and **WRITING**, students continue to work hard at listening for the beginning and ending sounds of words that they are trying to read and write. Students are working hard during "Weekend News" to write more words and sound out the sounds that they hear more independently each week! During Writer's Workshop, students are trying to write like a Scientist and recording real details and labeling facts. During Reader's Workshop, students are demonstrating their understanding of print and working to point to the words on the page and try to read the exact words by using the pictures, sounding out, and memorizing our "trick words" (high frequency / sight words that need to be memorized and not sounded out). Soon, we will be learning about using all of our "super powers" to read!!! Students are enjoying working with their 4th Grade Buddy, and they are very proud of sharing how they are able to read their trick words as well as some books independently or with some help and encouragement from the 4th Grader!

Please continue to encourage your child to collect 3 things that begin with the focus letter that we are working on each week and have your child try to spell the words and write them down on index cards or small pieces of paper. I have seen lots of writing confidence and increased skill developing each week, and I am so proud of their learning and accomplishments! Also, please

encourage your child to complete the letter homework booklet and bring it in so he/she can earn a sticker on the chart (every 3 stickers earns a prize).

We have completed our first **MATH** unit of identifying numbers / quantities to 10, counting order to 20, more and less, and same and different. We will be learning about two-dimensional (FLAT) and three-dimensional shapes (SOLID) as we describe and compare them (numbers of sides /lines, points / corners, and if it is a flat or solid shape).

In **SCIENCE**, we have continued to learn about weather and temperature and seasonal changes. We also have been learning about what a **SCIENTIST** does and how he/she stays safe. Ask your child about our safety lesson about how important it is to be sure about items / chemicals and not to put anything in their mouths or drink anything without being sure and especially not during science investigations. We have been learning about the scientific method and what scientists do by asking questions, making a plan, investigating, recording information, revising plans, if needed, and solving problems and sharing results.

During the week of Dec. 3, all Kindergarten students will be taking the district mandated online **I-READY** Diagnostic assessment for both **READING** and **MATH**. Once students take this diagnostic assessment, they will be automatically given lessons at their individual levels to work on during classroom instructional learning times. This assessment can be difficult since it will be giving many different types of questions to determine the just right instructional skill levels. We have been working on basic **TEST TAKING STRATEGIES** and how to try your best and to listen to the question (and click to repeat it if needed) and all of the possible answers before clicking on anything. Students are required to **INDEPENDENTLY** work on at least 15 minutes instructional time / lessons time for reading AND also 15 minutes of math instructional learning / lessons per week for the months of December and January. After January 30, the district expectation for Kindergarten I-READY instructional usage will be at least 30-45 minutes per week for Reading AND Math. Since we will be transitioning to the district requirement of using I-READY during our classroom times, I will not be able to provide as much classroom times for Kodable, Raz-Kids, or Zearn. I will definitely plan to use these wonderful programs occasionally during our weekly Library / Media if we are not doing a STEAM / GENIUS HOUR activity.

PLEASE TRY TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO WORK ON RAZ-KIDS, ZEARN, AND KODABLE AT HOME (AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE) TO REINFORCE AND ENHANCE THE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM!

It will also be VERY helpful to visit the Room 2 CLASSROOM WEBPAGE and click on WEBSITES & TECHNOLOGY to find all of the online educational links as well as several MOUSE and KEYBOARD online practice activities that will help your child to become more comfortable with using the CHROMEBOOKS!

Several students have been very excited about earning their **10 PANDA PAWS**, and they have been able to pick from the special Panda Prize Box for being **PAWTASTIC!!!** They are working

hard to be **RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, and READY to LEARN** at Dunning School. We are also working hard to earn our **CLASS PAWS** (every 20 paws earns a class prize ... we already filled up the board once and earned extra recess)!

Please remember to send the **LIBRARY** book back to school by **WEDNESDAY** each week. We are working to earn a class paw when ALL of our books are returned on time (or ONLY 1 or 2 are forgotten)!!! We have only achieved a class paw for this only once since the beginning of the school year so please try to help your child return his/her library book by Wednesday. This week, we will not be having our library time so you may hold on to the book until next week. Also, we have **PE / GYM** on **TUESDAYS** and students must wear **SNEAKERS** in order to participate. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CHILD WITH A PAIR OF SNEAKERS TO CHANGE INTO IF HE/SHE WEARS RAIN OR SNOW BOOTS TO SCHOOL.**

Since it is getting very cold, please send your child to school with a warm **HAT, MITTENS / gloves** (mittens are easier to get on all of the students since I do not have to help with each of the fingers, and this can be frustrating for your child unless he/she is able to do this independently) and other warm items such as a **SCARF**. We try to play outside for recess each day unless the feels like temperature is below 20 degrees. Also, it would be really helpful if you can help your child practice to **ZIPPER** his/her coat so he/she can become more independent in this area. Several students are trying tell me that they do not have the warm items for recess, and I explained that they must have the warm winter items (or they will need to go to the nurse to borrow some for the recess). Then, they suddenly remember that they have them!

Now that the colder temperatures have arrived, please take the time to change out the **EXTRA CLOTHING** in your child's backpack so there are appropriate seasonal clothes if needed during the day. If you do not have a change of clothes in a zipper bag (underwear, pants, shirt and socks), please consider adding this to your child's backpack because it is much easier for your child to change into his/her own clothes and this is much more comfortable (as opposed to needing to borrow some from the nurse). Many different types of accidents can happen during the day (lunch spills, art spills, and many other things beside a bathroom accident). Thank you!!!

Thank you to those who sent in instant mashed potatoes for the "**CARE & SHARE**" collection program for the local food pantry! I believe that we collected 26 boxes of mashed potatoes! For the month of December (starting now since the mashed potatoes have already been collected today), we are collecting **PANCAKE MIX**. It is a really great way to encourage your child to help out others who are in need!

Please think about ordering some books from the Scholastic Book Fair that is here at Dunning School currently! It will be great if you can get some more books into your home (especially ones that are leveled and your child can start to read independently). This morning Room 2 students visited the Book Fair and they got to **PREVIEW** the book and make a **WISH LIST** (3 books) from this **BOOK FAIR** that is running right now at **DUNNING SCHOOL**. Your

child will bring home the WISH LIST (I think tomorrow), and you will have the option of purchasing those books (you can send in the exact money with the titles you want in an envelope or bag, and we can fill the books for you and send them home) or visiting the **BOOK FAIR** after school while it is open with your child! **The BOOK FAIR will be open next week and also on Saturday, December 1 during the PASTA DINNER (info was sent out about this previously, and you can reserve a time for dinner and then purchase books if you want). This is always a super fun event!!!**

I hope you have a **VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY THANKSGIVING!** I am very thankful for many things, and I am truly thankful for being able to work with your children and be a part of all of their wonderful, incredible and amazing growth as the school year progresses!!! As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Casavant