



## December 2011 Newsletter

### Kindergarten

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! It was nice to meet with everyone during parent /teacher conferences. What a valuable learning tool they are for me as a teacher. Your input about your own child's learning style is always very helpful to me.

The children's family turkey projects were a big hit! We had a lot of disguised turkeys. We had a snowman, a baby, a pirate, a ballerina, a mermaid, a tree, a leaf pile, a cheerleader, a tourist, a Christmas tree, Luigi, NFL football player Donovan McNabb and Santa Claus.

**Language Arts-** The letters we will cover this month are **Ee, Gg** and **Vv**. I hope everyone is practicing their sight words at home! Our new sight words are; **in, is, it, that,** and **you**. Our December poems are Menorah and I'm a Little Christmas tree. We will be making The Green Book this month.

**Math-** The children will be introduced to addition and subtraction symbols and terminology through number stories and concrete experiences. They also will be introduced to calculators and attribute blocks. Next week we will have a "Fun with Games" week. Your child will be assigned a specific day that she/he may bring in their favorite game. (Go Fish, Concentration, Connect Four, checkers, etc.) Games offer rich opportunities for children to reinforce and strengthen their developing mathematics skills. While playing games, children learn to apply rules consistently, follow sequences, match actions and symbols, learn the logic of strategies, and apply their growing understanding of numbers.

Many games integrate literacy skills, such as using symbols, tracking and sequencing, reading, and communicating with other players.

Most importantly, games enhance children's social skills. Children learn teamwork and gain experience with resolving conflicts.

**Science-** We are starting our unit on nocturnal animals. The children will learn about bats and other nocturnal animals, their habits and interesting facts. I will also be sending home a family project for the children to work on at home. After reading the book, Creatures of the Night, the children had the opportunity to choose a nocturnal animal to learn about.

**Social Studies-** This month we will be learning about how holidays are celebrated around the world. Some of the holidays we will be talking about are St. Lucia Day, celebrated in Sweden on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Hanukkah the festival of lights, Kwanza, an African-American harvest festival, and Christmas, a Christian festival.

### Dates to Remember

December 7<sup>th</sup> Half day

December 12<sup>th</sup> Nocturnal animal project due

December 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Shoppe

December 15<sup>th</sup> Presentation on nocturnal animals-South Shore Natural Science Center

December 22<sup>nd</sup> Holiday sing-a-long / dress-down day

December 23<sup>rd</sup>-January 2<sup>nd</sup> No school Winter Break

Happy Holidays

Mrs. Sullivan

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