

Bulldog Express

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2006

Second Grade News

A.G. Richardson Elementary

December Calendar:

PTO Santa Breakfast 9-11 am	2
Lunch with Principals	8
Interims go home. School Bd. Mtg. 7 pm	11
AGR Holiday Concert 7:00 pm	12
PTO Meeting -7:00pm, Library	14
SPiRiT DAY CCHS Band Assemblies	15
PTO Market Day , pick up 7:00pm	19
Christmas Holiday 12/22-1/1	

There is excitement in the air as second graders count down the days until Christmas. Letters have been written to Santa, and the children are trying extra hard to be good as December 25th fast approaches. Look for the children's letters to Santa in the Culpeper News.

Second grade students are showing progress in reading and are currently immersed in Unit 3, Side by Side of their basal reader. These stories stress learning and working well together.

We're currently wrapping up our Native American unit. Students are in the process of completing a special project at home to share with their classmates.

After this, we switch back to science for the remainder of the quarter as students use magnets to learn about force, motion, and energy.

As we look ahead to the spring, we will be planning for our second field trip. More details will be coming out about this trip to Graves Mountain Farm later. We welcome parent volunteers and remind them that anyone who wishes to be a chaperone must have a volunteer form and have been fingerprinted in advance. The Human Resources Department of the Central Office provides this service every Tuesday. Another upcoming spring event is

Egyptian Day. We are in need of paper towel rolls which will be used for a special project that day. Please send them in as you get them.

We all look forward to spending more time with our families during the holiday season. The second grade team wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday.



- * Please do not forget to have children wear their coats, hats, and gloves each day to school. Also, put the child's name on them. Thank you.
- * The Holiday begins on Dec. 22 and children return to school on January 2nd.
- * Happy Holidays!

The Common Cold:

The common cold is an infection of the upper respiratory tract caused by a virus. Cold weather does not cause colds, although most colds are caught in the fall and winter because most cold viruses thrive better in

colder temperatures. Colds usually strike eighteen to twenty-four hours after the virus enters the body.

Remember to:

1. Wash your hands often.
2. Refrain from close con-

tact with family or peers that have a cold.

3. Flush tissues after they have been used. Tissues can pass on the virus or cause you to re-infect yourself.

Stay warm and well!

Tips from Nurse Grady

First Grade Holiday Happenings

December is a very busy month in First Grade. The First Graders will be heading to Fauquier High School on Tuesday, December 12th to see the play "The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves". We know that we will have a delightful time! In reading, we continue to strengthen the use of short vowels when reading and spelling. We encourage you to have your child read to you each evening. This will increase your child's reading fluency and self-confidence.

In math we are building additional skills. We will be introducing telling time to the hour and half hour.

Lots of holiday activities will be going on in all of our classrooms during this holiday season! Happy Holidays from the

First Grade Team.



Music News from Mrs. Cottrill

Thank you again for the overwhelming response to our cookie dough sale. With your efforts we made over \$6, 000!!!! That's outstanding! This money will be used to help fund our annual spring musical. This year we are performing Disney's 101 Dalmatians. ALL students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will be participating in this musical. Auditions will be held on January 4, 2007 from 2:30 till 4pm for all students interested in having a

solo or a speaking part. Having an extra part will require extra after school rehearsals. A permission slip will be coming home before the Holiday break. Happy Holidays and may the Blessings of the Season be with you and your family.

The faculty and staff of A.G. Richardson wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

From the Office

Parents Please Note:

If you take your child to an appointment of any kind during the school day please DO NOT keep them out the entire day. It is vital that they return to school even if they are tardy.

*Many thanks,
The Office Staff*

Kindergarteners Learn Christmas Traditions Around the World

In November, our main focus was learning about Thanksgiving. They had a wonderful time listening to stories about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. They also learned lots of fun songs to sing and enjoyed singing for the many parents who came to the feast. Some classes used their knowledge about patterns to make beaded shirts, necklaces and headbands. Other classes made Pilgrim and turkey costumes.

In Math, the students are busy learning about numbers. In Reading, we have

begun to learn basic sight words and many are beginning to read. December's focus will be on holidays around the world. We will be learning about the traditions in different countries. We will study Israel—Hanukkah, Germany and England—Christmas, Sweden—the Feast of Light, Mexico—Las Posadas and the African holiday of Kwanzaa. Our winter holiday music program will be held on Thursday, December 21st at 9:30 a.m.. We would love for you to come and join us to hear their sweet voices.

We are still a very busy group and if you have time to come and volunteer in your child's classroom, it would be greatly appreciated!



Third Grade Happenings

Third grade academics are in full swing as we continue to move through the curriculum. In reading, we have started Unit 3, "Getting the Job Done." Look for stories such as "Tops and Bottoms" and "Mom's Best Friend" in the coming weeks. This month, the children will be working on subtracting big numbers after a review of the basic facts in math. Time spent reviewing subtraction facts at home would be helpful to your child. Be sure to practice subtraction with regrouping at home as well, as it is a very difficult concept for the children to master. Multiplication facts will soon be introduced, and we are working on telling time. Flash cards and a watch with hands make wonderful stocking stuffers. Science and social studies are both exciting and filled with lots of SOL information. We have started our study of ancient Greece. Remember to send in

your flat, white sheet for Greek and Roman Day. Following Simple Machines in science, we will be working on Energy. This unit will include an energy conservation log, which will be an at-home project. The children will have recess everyday even as the temperature drops, so please make sure they bring a coat, a hat, and gloves to school. Also, make sure your child gets plenty of rest as the holidays can be a busy and stressful time. Thank you for all you do!

Happy Holidays!

Third Grade students are learning about Greece and Rome in Social Studies. They will have a special day of celebration to end their studies. Greek and Roman Day will be on February 16th.

Fifth Grade Fun

Thanksgiving has come and gone and the holidays are in full swing. December will be a busy month for all of us and we ask that you don't forget to check with your child daily to make sure homework is getting completed, folders are getting signed, and important papers are coming back to school. In December, we'll attack long division in math with dividends of four digits and divisors of two and we'll throw some decimals in the mix as well. Graphing and statistics (mean, median, mode, and range) will be topics of study in math for December also. Keep practicing those multiplication facts!

We will continue to study verbs in English and then begin pronouns. Please encourage your child to read for fun and to earn Accelerated Reader points. If your child is participating in "Book-It" this year you can count those minutes as well. Our school library and the public library have a list of these books. We will begin the life science section of our science curriculum this month, which will deal with vertebrates (animals with backbones), invertebrates (animals without backbones), and plants. We will continue studying states/regions in social studies focusing on the southeast and midwest regions of the country. Feel free to pull out a map at home and quiz your child on these states. Have them show you what

they know! Thank you to those who continue to bring in soda can tabs to Mr. Deissler. It's not too late to start! Lastly, as the cold weather approaches, please make sure that your son/daughter wears a coat to school. We love to go outside for recess, but don't want to get sick in the process. Happy Holidays from the fifth grade team!



Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders are working very hard this nine weeks. We are studying multiplication in Math. Facts from 0 to 12 should be reviewed nightly. There are a number of fun games you can play with your student to help them learn their facts, just ask a teacher.

In Reading we just completed Unit Two. Get ready to read some great Tall Tales! Unit Three has wonderful stories that you can read with your student. Please practice vocabulary with your student to help them study. Reading is a great way to spend

quality time with someone!

Ecosystems and animals are our topics for Science right now. This is a very interesting unit. The students really seem to enjoy it. Ask your student to explain a food chain or a food web to you. How many different ones can you think of together?

Remember parents, interims will be here before you know it! Keep studying with your student. Don't forget to

sign agendas AFTER you check to make sure homework is complete. Thank you for all of your help and support!



A.G. Richardson Elementary

From Mrs. Standley, Math Specialist

Here are some fun things to do this Holiday Season!

Calculate the number of years since the bombing of Pearl Harbor

Estimate the weight of the turkey or ham.

Chart the temperature outside as you count down the days til Christmas. Make a graph on paper or the computer to chart your findings.

Survey your family and friends for their favorite holiday song.

Look for patterns and geometric shapes on your wrapping paper.

Help measure for your favorite holiday recipe.

Estimate how long before the relatives arrive.

Keep track of the miles you travel during the holidays. Add them all together.

Calculate the cost of your wish list. Use ads from the newspaper.

Measure and compare the lengths of different kinds of candy canes.

If it snows, measure the inches of snow.

Predict the height of your tree.

Parents:

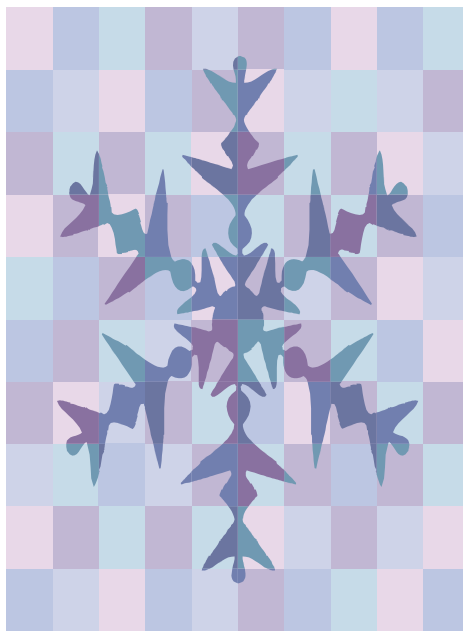
We now have some additional blacktop parking but we realize parking is still limited. Therefore parents, we need to ask that you **NOT** park in the parking spaces in the morning and walk your child in to school unless it is an absolute emergency. Teachers and staff need these spaces to park when they arrive at school and many cannot find a space.

Also, we ask that **ALL** parents follow school procedures for the drop-off of students. Please get in line and drop your child off at the curb next to the school. This is the designated area which has teachers on duty. We realize that the line is long some mornings; therefore you may want to leave home earlier. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Inclement Weather Announcements

Parents:

Winter has arrived and we will be having changes in the school schedule some days. There may be delays, cancellations, or early dismissals due to the inclement weather. **PLEASE** listen to the radio, the T.V. or sign up for cancellations.com on your computer. T.V. channels 29 and 4 carry our notices and you may get information or sign up to receive an e-mail when school is cancelled on www.cancellations.com



The Best of the Holiday Season to You and Yours!

Please understand that staff does not arrive until the designated time given and we do not have people to watch students for a late opening if you have to be at work. You may want to consider signing your child up for daycare in the event that you need them for this purpose. This way you may drop your child off at daycare and not have to wait until school opens and worry. Information and paperwork may be obtained from the office.

