

# Bulldog Express

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2007

## Principal's Message

The busy holiday season is upon us, and I would like to personally wish each of our students and their families a very joyful Christmas! You can expect interim reports to be sent home during the first week of December. We had a terrific turnout on conference day last month, and we know the importance of keeping the lines of communication open with parents. When parents know how their children are doing in school, children will make better progress. Look for these interim reports in your child's backpack and be sure to call your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

December is a time for many celebrations! Please plan on attending our Winter Music concert on December 13th at 7:00 pm. Our AGR Stars and AGR Ringers will surely get you into the holiday spirit. Kindergarten students will be presenting their music program on December 21st in the cafeteria at 9:30 am. This program is always a highlight of our school year as well.

Your children are working very hard! As excited as the children are about the holidays, be sure to keep them well rested and healthy so they can enjoy all of the fun activities that are happening this season. Wishing you a happy and healthy Christmas, too!

**A.G.Richardson  
Elementary**

## December Calendar:

Lunch with Principals	7
Interims go home. School Bd. Mtg. 7 pm	10
AGR Night at Mama Mai's	11
AGR Holiday Concert 7:00 pm PTO Meeting 6:00 pm	13
Kindergarten Program	21
Spirit Day Christmas Holiday 12/22—1/1	21

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.

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 both our field trips. More details will be coming out about the trip to the National Zoo as the date gets closer.

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. Any parent willing to come in and volunteer to prepare items for this day please let your child's teacher know ASAP.

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 Riverside on Thursday, December 6th to see the play “Babes in Toyland”. 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 addition 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 to everyone who helped out with our Music Department Fundraiser. With your help we raised just over \$4,500. This will help with the cost of bringing our Artist in Residence to work with the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in March. Also, mark your calendar for the AGR Holiday concert. The concert will be Thursday, December 13 at 7 pm, in the AGR cafeteria. The concert will feature our Ele-

mentary Band, the AGR Stars and the AGR Ringers. Come and hear some holiday tunes that will be sure to put you and your family in the holiday spirit.

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*

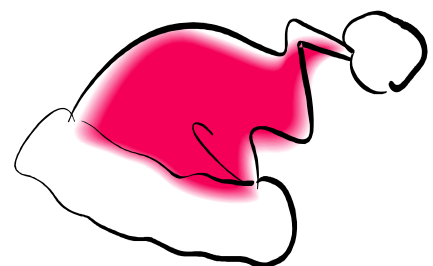
## Kindergarteners Learn Christmas Traditions Around the World

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 and write. 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, Ireland and England—Christmas, Norway—the Feast of Light, Mexico—Las Posadas and India-Diwali. Our winter holiday music program will be held on Friday, 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

The cold crisp air, short days, and excited children are all indications that the winter holidays are approaching. While vendors and shops are decking the halls, our third grade students are as busy as Santa's little elves.

The third grade mathematics content focuses on telling time, place value (6 digits), and geometry. Exploring energy and the sources of energy we have on earth is another topic that is covered. The students are continuing to learn about the culture and history of Ancient Greece and Rome and the contributions they have made to our society. Please

remind your children "not to go on vacation too early" because there is a lot of important information to continuously review. The interims will be sent home the week of December 10th to show the progress that your child is making.

While we are working diligently on academics. We will take a break to celebrate the joys of the season. Stay tuned for more information regarding holiday celebrations. Please do note that school will be closed from December 22nd-January 1st.

**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 29th.**

## 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 mid-west 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! 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**

The Culpeper Community Christmas Basket is a program to help feed Christmas dinner to the needy families of Culpeper County. The schools of Culpeper County are participating in this worthy project. To Aid in the collecting/sorting, each school has been assigned a different food group. AGR will be collecting green beans and peas. Please send in the cans with your child before December 12th.

If you are interested in doing more to help the program, such as, helping a particular family or packing boxes, please contact Susan Hauman at 825-0616 ext. 3767.

#### Library News

Thank you, thank you for making the book fair a huge success. We did very well and got loads of books for our library. A special thank you to Mrs. Scott, chairman of the fair, and to all of the parents who set up, sold books, and took down the fair. We will be having a buy one, get one free book fair, April 18-25, so mark your calendars. For that big event. From November 12-18 we celebrated Children's Book Week. To celebrate this exciting week we had our annual book cover contest. Each grade had a different book read to them and then illustrated and designed a book cover. Their will be winners from each class and prizes awarded. Winners will be announced in a future Bulldog Express. Remember to read at home every night!

#### Parents:

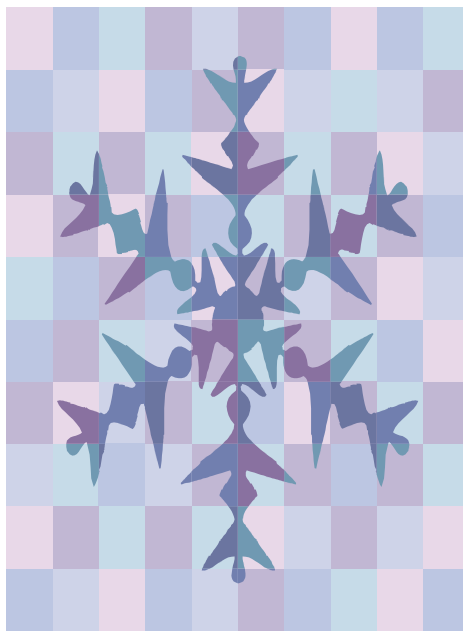
**We now have some additional blacktop parking but we realize parking is still limited. Therefore parents, should you absolutely need to walk your child in to the school in the mornings, we need to ask that you park in the graveled area, (Visitor Parking), and NOT in the parking spaces. Teachers and 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](http://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.**

