

Dear Parents,

How is it possible that it is already December? The first trimester has flown by. We are working on report cards coming home on Friday, December 9th. It was great meeting with all of you and listening to your children talk about what they were proud of and wanted to improve in all the subject areas. They did such a great job!

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus, and the children have created gifts for Jesus that they will hopefully be working on during this time. Each day during Advent we will light the candle or candles on our Advent wreath and we use the book "Countdown to Christmas", which focuses on the Nativity. Through scripture, prayer, and reflection, we add a different element to our display each day. In addition to this, we have wrapped 16 Christmas books that a child or children open that day, and we share a story of Christmas with them.

Polar Express Day is one of our favorite traditions in 3rd grade. We will spend the day celebrating with Polar Express themed activities. We read the book and watch the movie along with a special breakfast that our room parents are planning. Look for information about how you can help.

One part of the party is our book exchange. Each child should bring in one **wrapped book** by **Tuesday, December 13th**. The book should be **new, paperback, and around \$5.00**. We will be putting the books into two piles one suitable for boys and the other ideal for girls so all the girls can pick out a book they'd like to read and the boys one they'd like to read. The books will be numbered, and the children will get a gift that correlates with the number they draw. Please **attach a gift tag** to let us know who the present is from, and you can leave the top section blank or write "**to my friend**". If you are unable to purchase a book, please let us know. We want all students to be able to participate.

Christmas Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 pm. At this time, the children should be in their homeroom classrooms at 6:00. The concert will be held in the gym. We don't have any other information at this time but please watch for information coming in WRAP or from Ms. Dirska herself. If we learn anything more we will shoot you an email.

The children are busy finishing their personal timelines and we hope to share them next week. Each student should have posted on the Jamboard the countries their ancestors are from. This has been a challenge so each of us created a new link that is separate from the hyperdoc. We hope that helps. Students will be choosing a country to research from their heritage so we need this information soon. The family tree and family interview are Wednesday Dec. 7th. All information can be found on our cultures google classroom, along with extra activities to get to know your family better.

Hope everyone stays warm, safe, and healthy during this wintry weather.

Wishing you all a peace filled weekend,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan