

# ROOM 202 NEWS

## DECEMBER



### Reminders

- \*Strings is every Thursday from 12:00-12:40pm (Band - Friday)
- \*Students should read nightly for at least 15 minutes.
- \*Students need to practice their math **facts** at home daily, focusing on ones they struggle with. Mastery is essential as we continue to learn how to multiply and divide larger numbers.

### Important Dates

- \*12/23 ~ Winter Concert
- \*12/24 - 1/2 ~ Winter Recess
- \* 1/3 ~ Classes resume
- \*1/16 ~ No School, MLK, Jr. Day
- \*1/23 Quarter 2 ends

### Classroom Wishlist

- \* Gently used books
- \* Tissues/Kleenex
- \* Ticonderoga Pencils
- \* Hand Sanitizer/ Soap/ Lotion



### Dear Room 202 Families,

November was a short, but busy month that really flew by! We had a wonderful time visiting the Museum of Science. We were able to view an IMAX: National Park Adventure in the Omni Theater. We also did some hands-on engineering, making bobsleds and even went to a live animal show where we saw a baby alligator and an owl.

As the weather gets colder, it is always important to take better care of ourselves. Unfortunately, cold and flu season has arrived! Please note we would greatly appreciate classroom donations of tissues, Clorox wipes, hand soap, and hand sanitizer to help limit the spread of germs around the classroom.

In December, it is often valuable for us to review important classroom routines and expectations. During these next few weeks we will reinforce the strong habits students developed over the first months of school. Please continue to check in with your child about homework and their daily learning, the successes and the challenges. Your interest, support, and encouragement is important!

We are excited to announce our second field trip, to 826 Boston in January. Students will have a chance to exercise their creative writing talent to write and publish a story as a class. Field trip permission slips will be sent home after break.

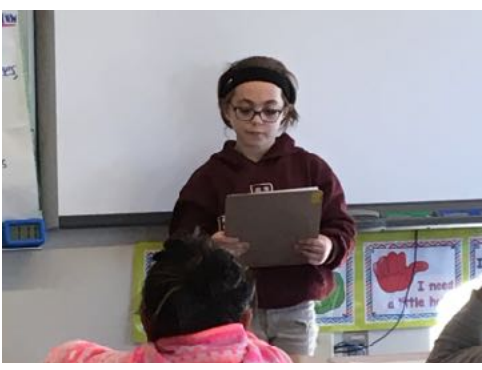
Lastly, we would love to reach out to you with regards to areas of expertise. We know many of you have interesting jobs, hobbies and degrees. We are interested in bridging your knowledge and talents with the grade 4 curriculum. Please let us know if you have an idea and we will be happy to try and coordinate an appropriate learning opportunity, whether it is a 1 hour visit to the classroom or the class visiting you! Please keep in mind we are open to all ideas. However, our ultimate goal is to provide students with enriching learning experiences (hands on is great). Both timing and relevancy to the curriculum are essential.

Thank you!

☀ Mrs. Bauer & Ms. Campbell

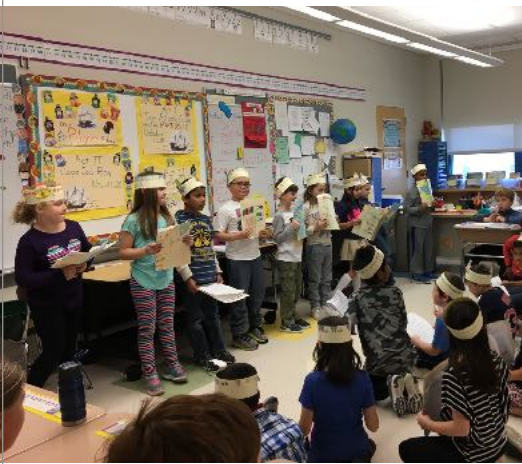
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**READING** ~ We are wrapping up the first nonfiction unit. Students have learned key skills to understand a variety of nonfiction texts, such as identifying and using text features, understanding various text structures, reading with a purpose in mind, and determining main idea. We have read a broad range of texts to apply these skills including biographies, magazine articles, and more. In the next weeks we will continue to work on determining main idea which is a challenging skill to master, as well as the new skill of synthesizing information and summarizing what we read. Students have really built their stamina and are making progress as strategic readers. It is wonderful to see them growing! Before break we will also start a short Drama unit. Students will learn how to read a script and have a chance to perform. It's a fun unit and great for practicing reading with expression.

**MATH** ~ Students are showing diligence and determination as they learn how to have a stronger conceptual understanding of Math. Instead of learning the standard multiplication and division algorithms, students have learned the Area Model of Multiplication. This requires place value knowledge to decompose the numbers into expanded form, then multiply and add. It is important that students understand what they are doing when they multiply, instead of just learning the steps to find the answer. Students have also learned Partial Quotient Division using their fact knowledge and place value to help solve larger division problems. We have now begun our third unit of study, fractions, but will continue to loop back to other topics that we have already learned this year. Our fourth graders are showing what magnificent mathematicians they are, and I look forward to watching them continue to grow!



**WRITING** ~ Students recently took a break from narratives to explore Opinion and Persuasive writing. Students learned to form strong opinion statements and support their opinion with clear reasons and examples. Use of transition words was emphasized. It was fun to see what stance students took on two very hot topics: school uniforms and recess. Our letters are now posted in the hall by our lockers. Come by and take a look! We have also continued to work on writing organized responses to text-based prompts using evidence from the passage. We have made a lot of progress explaining our thinking. Now we have begun another personal narrative focused on a family tradition or a winter memory. In this unit, we will work to fully develop our descriptive writing skills. It will be interesting to compare their first story to their second and see the growth.

**SCIENCE** ~ We will soon be completing our weather unit. Students learned about weather instruments and even built an anemometer to test the wind speed. Precipitation, temperature, and the water cycle are other topics that were discussed in this unit. Recently we have been focused on understanding air movement, warm/cold fronts, and understanding the difference between weather and climate. Our animal unit is coming up next. This should be an interesting and exciting unit, as I know many of our students have great enthusiasm for animals! Students will be learning about the key characteristics of the six important groups of animals. and the life cycle of animals in these groups.



**SOCIAL STUDIES** ~ Earlier in the year, we spent time learning how to read maps, find coordinates and identify latitude and longitude. We have been putting those skills to use studying the regions of the United States. We wrapped up the Northeast region and are beginning to explore the South. If students have artifacts, books, postcards, or photos from any of the regions we are studying, please feel free to send them in to share. We look forward to traveling around the United States with our fourth graders the next few months!