

Kindergarten News

December

It has been nice to see all the creatively decorated gingerbread people coming into school. Thank you for taking the time with your child to complete the family projects that are sent home.

We have begun a unit on The Gingerbread Man which has led to interesting discussions and comparisons of the story. We are discovering, through the different versions of the stories, that many elements stay the same, while others change. For example, in most of the stories that we've read, an old woman made the gingerbread man, the gingerbread man jumped out of the oven and ran away, and the sly fox got him in the end. The variations we've encountered include, the characters were not always the same, the fox did not always play the same trick, and the gingerbread man did not always look the same. Through this tale, the children have been introduced to some of the elements of a story. For example, we learned that stories have a beginning, a middle and end, as well as characters. You could reinforce this concept when reading to your child by asking your son or daughter to retell the story to identify the characters.

We are focusing on the letters Cc, Aa, Oo, Dd, Gg, Bb, Ee, Ff, and Ss, as well as the words the, am, I, see, look, yes, no, love, like and is. These letters and words can be reinforced at home. Letter and word identification should be practiced until it is quick and automatic. Distinguishing between upper and lower case versions of the letters, learning their corresponding sounds, and printing them with proper formation are all essential kindergarten skills.

In Everyday Math we are becoming familiar with the terms greater than, less than, and fewer than. Many games have been played to illustrate this concept. Responding to one-more-than and one-less-than questions has been practiced. Children should have multiple opportunities to "play" with numbers as their number sense developed. Numbers 0-20 have been the focus of many of our math activities. As with the letters, identification of these numbers should be quick and automatic.

The week ahead proves to be filled with lots of exciting and new experiences for the children. On **Thursday, December 13th**, Carpenter School will perform "**How the Penguins Saved Christmas**" at Kingswood Regional High School. We ask that all students dress in black and white and to **please** avoid clothing with print.

If your child attends the a.m. kindergarten session we ask that you arrive no later than 6:15 p.m. for the 6:30 show. If your child is in the p.m. session we ask that you please arrive no later than 7:15 p.m. for the 7:30 show. We also ask our a.m. parents to please be considerate of the second show and to leave in a timely fashion as parking is limited and the second show begins promptly at 7:30. Thank you for your understanding.

On **Friday, December 14th**, the kindergarten students will enjoy a walking field trip to the Wright Museum for the **Festival of Trees**. Carpenter School has decorated one of more than 60 trees that will be on display. It will be exciting for the children to find their tree and enjoy the beauty of the others. We ask that you please dress your child accordingly for this walk. Please fill out the attached permission slip allowing your child to attend and if you wish to chaperone we are always thankful.

On **Thursday, December 20th**, all Carpenter School children will participate in a Holiday Sing-Along at 1:45 p.m. at the Cate Park Gazebo. If your child is in the a.m. session and would like to attend, we ask that you meet us at the park. Please come and join the fun and spirit that the holiday brings.

We are looking forward to the weeks ahead with your children. If you have any questions or "I wonders" about anything please, feel free to contact us here at school.

Thank you and have a safe and happy holiday season.

Warmly,

I give permission for _____ to attend the walking field trip to the Wright Museum on Friday, December 14th, during school hours.

Parent's Signature

Yes, I would like to chaperone. No, I am unable to chaperone.