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# Here's What's Happening in Second Grade!

Mrs. Adams' Class

Dec. 8-12, 2014

## Reading

This week in reading we examined the parts of a persuasive opinion letter. We read an example that I wrote, and we highlighted the opinion, reasons, and evidence. The children will be writing their own letters expressing their opinions to Santa and persuading him to make them an elf for Christmas! We learned about how to identify

character traits to help us deepen our comprehension for the stories we read. We came up with our own traits and listed them in our Thoughtful Logs, we listed traits for the characters in a story, and then we brainstormed traits that a good elf might have to help ourselves think of convincing arguments for our letters. The children will use this

To come up with reasons and evidence that they would be the perfect choice for one of Santa's elves. In word study we practiced using spelling patterns with a silent 'e' to spell words with a long 'a' sound. We also did a Buddy Check activity to practice high frequency words like because, could, when, was, want, and very.

## Writing

This week in writing we began writing our Persuasive Opinion Letters. The children will be writing to Santa to share their opinion about making a good elf to help him

at the North Pole. We brainstormed the traits a good elf would have, and then the children completed their prewrite by stating their opinion, providing

reasons, supporting their reasons with evidence, and restating their opinion. Next, they drafted their letters and revised them to include signal words and linking words.

## Math

This week in math we started Unit 5, which will focus on endpoints, line segments, plane and solid shapes, and AM/PM times. We will also review number grid puzzles with three digit numbers. This week we used attribute blocks to practice

sorting and distinguishing shapes based on size, color, thickness, and shape. We also learned how to label endpoints, draw line segments and name them, and create parallel and nonparallel lines. We've been working in the computer lab and

on the Chromebook in our classroom to visit the Xtra-math website for practicing facts. Some children are ready to move on to subtraction. Please continue to practice facts at home.

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## Upcoming Events:

12/12—EARLY RELEASE  
12/17—Gifts due for gift exchange  
12/22—Holiday Party  
12/23-1/2—NO SCHOOL

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## Reminders:

We are having a Gift Exchange in our classroom on December 22nd. I'm hoping to collect all gifts by next Wednesday so I know if we are missing any that I can provide.

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## Next Week's Specials

Monday: Music

Tuesday: IMC, Art

Wednesday: PE

Thursday: Music

Friday: PE

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## Science

In Science the children continue on their journey through the different habitats, stamping their "passports" along the way! This week they visited the rainforest and learned about the layers. Next week they will explore the forest.

## Social Studies

This week in Social Studies we reviewed what we know about each of the tribes from the Northwest Coast, Woodlands, Southwest, and Plains. We read a book called The First Americans and distinguished between what we already knew and

what new information we learned. We also began to discuss the arrival of the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving.

## Health/Guidance/Handwriting

This week in guidance we learned how to tell if something is fair, and what to do if we feel like we are being treated unfairly. We learned that while many things in life

ARE fair, there are also some things that are not. And it's good for us to know how to cope with things when they don't go our way. We also learned how to show self-control

and not act impulsively. We practiced calming ourselves down by taking deep breaths, counting backwards, and doing self-talk. This helps us make the best choices.

## Special Announcements

We are collecting food donations for the Food Pantry and toys for the Toy Drive. If you are interested in donating please send your items to school with your child!

### Math Game of the Week:

"Memory Match"

[www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com)

In this 2-Player game the children try to match digital and analog clock times. The player with the most points at the end of the game wins!

### Holiday Party

Our Holiday Party will take place on Monday, 12/22 at 2:00. People who signed up to bring food or supplies to this party brought home a note about what to bring today. Please remember gifts for the gift exchange are due next Wednesday.