2012 has certainly flown by! Hard to believe there is less than three weeks until Winter Break!

Thank you for coming to three-way interviews. I found them very productive and helpful in setting goals for Term 2 and I really enjoyed working together with the parents of my students!

**Homework** – There was discussion regarding homework at interviews and this is what I recommend for our Grade 3/4 students. 1) I would like students to practice their spelling words; the list comes out Monday, is written in the planner and the quiz is on Friday. 2) I would like students to read for twenty minutes or so four-to-five times per week and record the title and pages read in their planner. 3) It would be awesome if you could help your child work on his/her multiplication tables. We do drills and games each week but reinforcement from home, via games, oral practice or an on-line game, is important. I recommend the site ‘multiplication.com’ or ‘hoodamath.com’ (once you get to the site go to games and then numbers and a good selection will be there). Your child also knows a great multiplication card game called ‘Snap’.

**Language Arts** - The boys and girls have just started Literacy Circles (along with a novel study) with the novels of author, Roald Dahl. Your son/daughter will have occasional reading assignments which will be written in the planner. The novel always needs to return to school for the next day.

**Math** - We have completed our formal unit on Multiplication Facts but will still revisit and reinforce throughout the year. Until Christmas we will be working on ‘Long’ Multiplication as well as relating Multiplication Facts to Division Facts.

**Science** - Our student teacher, Mr. Nick Breault, is back for a couple weeks and will be doing a neat Science unit on Forensics for this week.

Next Thursday we are going to be making beautiful Christmas door swags (like picture on the left). The plan is to go for a walk, weather pending, on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon from 1:00-2:00 pm to cut the cedar boughs and then make the swags on Thursday morning. We will walk down to the Community Forest and cut the cedar boughs from the trees there. We will collect our boughs and then play a game of Kick the Can. If anyone has Holly planted in their yard, we’d love to have some for Wednesday or Thursday. The swags will come home Wednesday and look beautiful on your front door! If I could borrow some extra pruners to help with the cutting would be great!

**Cumberland Elementary Christmas Concert** – Our annual concert is on Wednesday, December 19th. There are two shows, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Please allow your child to dress in his/her ‘best dress’ clothing (don’t buy anything new!). If he/she has a Santa hat, that would be great.

**Christmas Crafts** – We will be doing some Christmas/winter crafts in December. If you have any Christmas craft supplies that you are no longer using, i.e. pine cones, bells, ribbons, please send them to school and we would be happy to put them to use.
Christmas Activity Day – On Thursday, December 20th our class along with our buddies in Mrs. Meyer’s class will participate in a Christmas craft/activity day, 10:15 till 2:15. If anyone is available to help out, please let me know.

Coast Realty Christmas Hamper Program - Thanks for all of your generous donations for our Christmas hampers. If your child hasn’t already brought his/hers, please send it soon (item written in planner). We also need a loonie or twoonie per student which goes towards buying the family’s turkey and other fresh food. All by Friday, Dec. 14th, please. Cumberland School has put together seven hampers that will be appreciated by Comox Valley families in need.

Gingerbread Trees – We will be making gingerbread trees on Monday, December 17th. I will supply the cookie dough and icing but need students to each bring 30 grams of bulk candy. Please send candy that is fairly small and unwrapped by Friday the 14th, please.

Christmas Activities – The boys and girls discussed how we would like to celebrate on the last day of classes before Winter Break. One decision was that we would have a class lunch. We will have a ‘Wrap Buffet’ where students can build their own wrap sandwich. I will bring the tortilla shells and students have signed up for a filling, i.e. lettuce, cheese. Your son/daughter has signed up to bring a filling and has written it in his/her planner. We will also write a reminder note planners a couple days before. Please send the food item in a container (marked with name) on the morning of Friday the 21st.

Students also decided they wanted to do a ‘Wacky Gift Exchange’ and therefore need to bring a recycled gift. The gift should be suitable for either a boy or girl and be wrapped anonymously. Please send it to school by the 20th.

Community Service - As a community service project, we have volunteered to man some of the Comox Valley’s many Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Bell locations. We have committed to a two-hour block on Friday, December 14th from 9:30 to 11:30. What this would look like is one or two adults with three-to-four students at six different locations. Our locations are Walmart (x two), Thrifty’s, London Drugs, Safeway and Quality Foods (mall). Our role with the Kettle Bells is strictly community service and not affiliated with the Salvation Army Church. The boys and girls will be in-serviced prior to this Friday by Dawn, the coordinator, and parent driver/supervisors will have detailed information. The boys and girls should dress comfortably in layered clothes and try to wear a Santa hat. If you are able to help drive and supervise for this service to our community, please indicate on the permission slips which went home today. All consents needs to be back by Friday, please and thanks, so I can plan appropriately.

Following our community service, we will head for a swim at the CV Aquatic Centre. Depending on weather, we will likely lunch at Lewis Park then head for the pool for 12:45. Students need a swim suit, towel and necessary grooming items. We return for 2:30 dismissal.

School resumes on Monday, January 7th, 2013.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Pam Twin - Division 5, Grade 3/4 Teacher