Division 6 Class Newsletter - December 3rd, 2014

Fall sure has gone by quickly! Just a little more than two 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 were discussion regarding homework at interviews and this is what I recommend for our Grade 3 students. 1) Students should practice their spelling words; the list comes out Monday, written in the planner, and the quiz is on Friday. 2) It would be great for students to read for twenty minutes four-to-five times per week and record the title and pages read in their planner. 3) Please 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. There are a math site links on the ‘Homework’ page of our blog. Your child also knows a multiplication card game called ‘Snap’.

Language Arts - The boys and girls have been working on a Literacy Study with the novel, Pit Pony. We seem to be successfully doing all of the reading at school, independent and shared, and thus it has not been sent home. The boys and girls are really enjoying this Nova Scotia, coal mining themed historical fiction book.

Math - We will have started our unit on Multiplication Facts and will mostly finish by Christmas but will still revisit and reinforce throughout the year. Following the break we will be working on ‘Long’ Multiplication as well as relating Multiplication Facts to Division Facts.

Friday, Dec. 12th we are going to be making door swags. The plan is to go for a walk, weather pending, Friday morning 9:00ish, to cut cedar boughs. We’ll then make the swags in the afternoon. We will be walking down to the Community Forest and cutting the cedar boughs from the trees there and stop somewhere for a play on the way back. If anyone has Holly planted in their yard, we’d love to have some for Friday. The swags will come home after school Friday and look beautiful on your front door! If anyone is available to walk with us, feel welcome. Also helpers in the afternoon would be nice. Extra pruners to help with the cutting would be great!

Cumberland Elementary Christmas Concert – Our annual concert is on Wednesday, December 17th. 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!). Each student should wear a colourful toque, please.

Christmas Craft Day -- On Thursday, December 18th our class along with our little buddies in Mrs. Meyer’s class will participate in a Christmas craft/activity day, 10:55 to 11:55 and 12:40 till 2:40. If anyone is able to help out, please let me know. *This will also be PJ Day!

Gingerbread Trees – We will be making Gingerbread trees on Tuesday, December 16th. I will supply the cookie dough and icing but need students to each bring 15 grams of bulk candy. Please send candy that is small and unwrapped by Monday the 15th, please.
Community Service - As a community service project, we have volunteered to host some of the Comox Valley’s many Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Bell locations. We have committed to a two-hour block on Monday, December 15th from 9:30 to 11:30. We need to leave the school before 9:00 am and will be back for noon. 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 (both locations), Superstore 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 Dec. 15th by Mark, the coordinator, and parent drivers/supervisors will have detailed information. The boys and girls should dress comfortably in layered clothes and try to wear a Santa hat. They will have song sheets to entertain themselves and others! If you are able to help drive and supervise for this service to our community, please indicate on the permission slips which will go home Wednesday (tomorrow). All consents needs to be back by Tuesday the 10th, please and thanks, so I can plan appropriately.

Coast Realty Christmas Hamper Program - Once again Cumberland School classes are participating in the Coast Country Realty Hamper Program. We have our family information and the boys and girls have signed up to bring a food or hygiene item. Students have a note with their item. We also need a loonie or twoonie per student which goes towards buying the family’s turkey and other fresh foods. All needs to come by Friday, Dec. 12th, please. Cumberland School is putting together eleven hampers that will be appreciated by Comox Valley families in need.

Last Day Christmas Activities

1. Students have 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 15th.

2. Mrs. Taylor and her leadership students are cooking a turkey dinner for 400 students on the last day before the break! We are in charge of making the Cranberry Sauce and will endeavoring to do that first thing on Friday the 19th. We will be using crock pots to make the sauce if anyone has a large crock pot to loan. I have one and the lunch program has one. I estimate that 6 is our magic number😊 Also, if anyone is able to help out from 9:00 to 10:20, a few extra hands would be nice. We would work in groups with the same recipe, ingredients and a crock pot.

3. This magnificent turkey dinner is at 1:00 in the big gym. Boys and girls don’t need to bring a full lunch therefore; just a couple big snacks for in the morning.

The New Year - School resumes on Monday, January 5th, 2015.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Pam Twin, Division 6 Teacher