



CLARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

464 Oak Grove Avenue

South Beloit, IL 61080

815-389-2311

DECEMBER 2017 COMMUNICATOR

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Holidays Parents!

It is an exciting month to be a student at Clark Elementary School. We are approaching the students' favorite holiday, Christmas, and the excitement is very much present at Clark. Starting this week the students will take their winter STAR test. We are seeing great growth from your students this year and I am sure they will do great on this test. After our testing window closes, the holiday fun will begin. On December 10th the high school will be putting on a production of Charlie Brown Christmas in the auditorium from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This would be a great way to kick off the holiday spirit. On December 12th, Clark will be hosting the the preschool's winter sing. This will take place in the gym and please keep an eye out for more details being sent home. On December 15th, Clark will be hosting the second community movie night, this time it will be indoors in the gym. We will be screening Arthur Christmas. The doors will open at 5:30 pm and the movie will begin at 6:00 pm sharp. Please bring chairs and blankets to sit on. Please keep an eye out for an RSVP sheet to come home with your student. Mark your calendars for December 19th at 6:00 pm! It is time for the annual Clark Winter Concert. The doors will open at 5:30 pm for your student to be dropped off at the gym. Remember, we will give you time to take pictures of your student after they have finished their songs. The students are very excited and have been practicing very hard so remember to bring the whole family to support them at the concert. The festivities wrap up on the December 21st with classroom Christmas parties in the afternoon. There is even a rumor that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by to give the students some holiday wishes before break begins.

I want to take a moment and wish all of you a great Christmas and an enjoyable break. I look forward to seeing all of the students in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Eric Mowbray

Principal Clark Elementary

District Director of Special Education

Remember to like us on Facebook ☺

HAPPEININGS IN MRS. O'BRIEN'S FIRST GRADE

We are getting into the holiday spirit in Mrs. O'Brien's classroom! We have started our Christmas Around the World Unit and our first stop is the United States of America! We will learn about and experience traditions and customs across different countries in the world. We are thrilled to be going on this exciting adventure! We will also be learning about holiday traditions the students have in their families by creating their own personal stockings.

In Reading, we are learning many strategies to help us comprehend and understand various stories and text such as: predicting, retelling, inferring, and making connections. The students have also worked very hard on reading and mastering their sight words. In Math, we are learning different ways to subtract numbers up to 20 such as: counting back and using the number line. We are also getting ready to celebrate the students' success of completing their addition facts by "going to the movies." The movie will take place the week before Christmas break. I am so proud of each and every student for all they have accomplished during this time. When we come back from break, we will begin our subtraction facts.

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your support, encouragement, and involvement in and out of the classroom!

Mrs. O'Brien



NEWS FROM MRS. HANFELD

In physical education our students have been learning and practicing a variety of loco motor skills as well as playing games that assist in developing those skills. We are working hard on a variety of exercises that develop our strength, flexibility and aerobic capacity as well. These are activities that we will continue throughout the year.

In January we will begin our Jump Rope unit to prepare for our "Jump For Heart" fundraising event to help the American Heart Association. This event will be held in February. There will be more details to come.



DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

December is an exciting month for books! The spirit of giving, sharing and Holiday cheer are a common theme for this month.

Kindergartner and First Graders check out books every week. They are encouraged to take the books home to share with their parents, grandparents, older siblings or anyone who can read along with them. We have been having a problem with students NOT returning books on time. If a student has not returned their book, they are unable to continue to check out books until those books are returned. After reading with them, please remind your child to put the library book into their backpack.

The South Beloit Public Library is offering fun activities that you and your family do not want to miss. We will be sending home a flyer with their upcoming events!

Happy Holidays!
Mrs. Hansen, Librarian

MUSIC WITH MRS. FURMANEK

Hello Clark Families!

This month in music we are gearing up for our Winter concert! The students have been working hard learning the music and movements for several weeks. I'm sure many of them have even been singing their songs at home!

The concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 PM. I hope to see all of you there! I know the students appreciate all the support after many weeks of hard work. If you have any questions or concerns about the concert please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy holidays to all of you!

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM MRS. GUILBAULT'S FIRST GRADE

We can't believe December is here 😊 Time sure flies when you're having fun!

December finds us working on long vowel sounds in reading and spelling, graphing in math, and mapping in social studies. Please continue to practice reading, spelling, and math facts as often as possible, in order to improve these skills.

As our weather changes, please make sure the children are dressed appropriately. The students are only allowed to play in the snow when they are wearing snow pants, boots, mittens, and hats. All clothing items should be labeled. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

I would like to wish you all a very warm and safe Holiday Season! Best wishes to all and to all a good night!



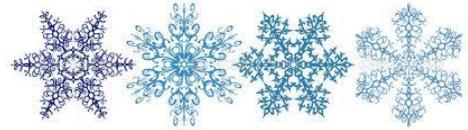
NEWS FROM MRS. SHIPPERT'S FIRST GRADE

We have been very busy in Mrs. Shippert's first grade class!

In Math, we are continuing to work hard and learning subtraction strategies to 20.

In Reading, we are reading new books each week and learning new skills such as what a metaphor is. We are looking forward to the month of December as we will be starting a unit based on *The Polar Express*.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Holiday!!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MRS. FERGUSON'S FIRST GRADE CLASS

December is about to be a fun month of learning in Miss Ferguson's classroom. In Reading we are continuing on with our Guided Reading series. We will be reading the books *Snow is Falling*, *Gingerbread Baby*, and *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed*. When reading these books my students will be learning important reading skills. These skills include the ability to make predictions, retell the story, define character traits, make inferences, and form their own opinions on different types of literature. In math we are learning different strategies that we can use to subtract with numbers up to 20. Some strategies include using a number line, counting back, and being able to distinguish if they can use related facts to solve problems. After this unit, we will be studying place value. In science we are starting a week long *Gingerbread Activity* that includes conducting an experiment using gingerbread cookies. This unit will introduce my students to the Scientific Method and collecting data for graphs.

DECEMBER NEWS FROM MRS. DOOLEY'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Hope everyone is ready for a very busy time of year. As always, we are busy learning new things in Kindergarten. We will be learning about different holidays around the world and how other people celebrate.

Your students have come so far since the beginning of school and we want to remind you that TIME is one of the best things that you can give your children this holiday season.

Even 5 minutes of reading and working with numbers a day can really help your child's confidence. Make sure that you are talking to them about what they are learning. I know many of you will get the "I didn't learn anything" but keep asking. Sometime just changing the question to "What was the best thing that happened today?" or even "What kind of snack did you have?" can start the conversation.

We encourage you to keep talking and reading to your children and remember that you are their first teachers.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday!!

MISS DOBSON'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Wow! We are working so hard at sounding out words all by ourselves. We are working at knowing that we CAN read, even if it's hard sometimes. We are doing a great job at counting to 100 by ones and tens. Soon we are going to start simple addition. Practicing at home will go a long way in our classroom!

Thank you to those parents who are also practicing life skills like zipping coats and tying shoes, it makes things run much more smoothly in class.

PRESCHOOL NEWS FROM MRS. WELLS AND MRS. HOUNSHELL

We are busy in class learning the letters and sounds of Qq, Ss, and Gg. The children practice writing and identifying their names daily. We are practicing cutting and proper scissor grip when making our classroom projects. The preschoolers are working hard on counting and identifying the numbers 1-10.

Preschool is very excited about all of the fun upcoming events. We will have our preschool Winter Concert on December 12th at 9:00am and 1:00pm. The children can dress nice in their Christmas outfits. On December 15th at 9:00am and 1:00pm is our parent/child play day to make gingerbread houses. Lastly, on December 21st at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm will be our holiday classroom parties. Keep an eye out for letters to come home about these activities. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Hope your Holidays are Merry and Bright!!



BER NEWS

...inuing to work on our sight words and introducing ourselves to Spelling City. Students are very excited to write sentences using the words they have learned to spell! During work time, we have been practicing our Christmas songs for the Holiday Concert. We've come to a consensus that "Peppermint Candy Cane" is our new favorite Christmas song.

In math we have reached counting to 100 and have earned our 100's charts for our desks. We can't wait to make our own charts coming up soon!