

Sharon Elementary

Newsletter

December 2011

Principal's Message

Thanks for your support of our Math night in November. It was fun to watch the faces of the children as they chose their prizes. Each child who came and played a game was able to pick a prize. I hope you will continue to play these games at home with your child. Thanks for your continued support for all of our programs at Sharon.

Our teachers are phenomenal. So many good things are happening for students at Sharon. Our focus for our Title One funds and Trustland funds is to accomplish class size reduction, give more attention to students in core subjects and additional time and support to our struggling students. The smaller class size allows our teachers to attend to the needs of your child. The extra support in the classroom allows our students help in writing and math. The additional time and support for our struggling students allows the class to keep moving forward without losing our strugglers in the process. Our goal is to help every child make a year of progress. It takes a lot of organized attention to make this happen.

Our Title One funding is determined by the percent of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Along with the newsletter this month, you will find an application for free and reduced lunch. If you have already applied, you can ignore this application. If you have not ap-

plied, please consider filling out the application. Even if your child eats a lunch from home every day, this application is crucial to our school funding. Your child does not have to ever eat school lunch for us to benefit from your efforts in filling out the form. If you qualify, this could assist already tight home budgets as well as school budgets.

Last year we added a class for kids in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades to go deeper into the math concepts they are learning. We saw great results. It gives the students who understand the concepts a chance to stretch and reach even further, while those who are struggling receive additional support to master the concepts taught. This class has continued this year. We are constantly striving to reach the needs of every child.

The very best thing you can do to help your child succeed in school is to help your child read every night. Discuss the books they read and make reading time a fun time in your home. I hope homework time is a great time of interaction and discussion as you discuss the interesting things your child is learning. As your child discusses what is learned, it makes the learning more solid, so keep up the conversations.

At the end of October, we had a "Penny War" in the school to earn money for the world food bank. The student council has done wonderful things this year. Thanks for your support of this effort to help children in Africa.

This is a wonderful year. We have had many exciting events al-

ready this year. We look forward to our First Grade Program in December. Thanks for all you do to support the school and to help in the classrooms. Working together we make a difference for your child. Sharon Elementary is a great place for learning.

Nursing News

Cold and flu season is upon us once again! Listed below are conditions of special concern for which children should be kept home from school.

1. Colds- watery discharge from nose and eyes, sneezing, chills and general body discomfort. If there is fever or yellow or green drainage from eyes or nose, it is particularly important to keep the children home.
2. Diarrheal Diseases- An increased number of stools compared with the child's normal pattern with increased water and/or decreased form. May be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headache, and fever.
3. Impetigo- Blister-like lesions on the skin which later ooze and develop into crusted sores. Itching is common. MUST be treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school.
4. Pink Eye or Conjunctivitis- Redness of eye or eyes, watery, white or yellow discharge

from the eye, matted eyelashes, burning or itching eyes. MUST be treated with antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school.

5. Any open wound or sore.
6. Persistent cough.
7. Nausea or vomiting.
8. Strep throat or any bacterial infection MUST be treated with antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
9. Fever.
10. Presence of any skin rashes that might be due to a viral or bacterial infection (e.g. measles, strep, staph, fungus, chickenpox.)
11. Earache or ear drainage.

Thanks for your assistance in keeping our school children as healthy as possible by preventing the spread of communicable diseases!

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse

Preschool

November flew by so quickly in preschool! We started the month learning about turkeys. We painted feathers for a large turkey on the wall, labeled the parts of a turkey, and sang turkey songs. The next week we learned about scarecrows and talked about Thanksgiving. We made scarecrows using the various shapes we are learning about; namely squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles. We even used ovals.

Right before Thanksgiving break we talked about eating healthy, brushing our teeth, and handwashing. We had an obstacle course in the classroom that was fun and reminded us how important exercise is for a healthy body. It was such a great

month and we are excited for December!

In December, we will talk about our five senses: sight, sound, taste, touch, and hearing. We will feel objects in a box to find the match to one we have in our hand; we will do a taste test and learn about salty, sweet, bitter, and sour tastes; We will find colors, letters, and shapes that we know around the classroom; guess smells that are in jars; and listen to sounds in our environment guessing what they could be. In the end we will make a five senses friend that caters to all of our senses. We then talk about space. We'll make constellations, a spaceship, alien headbands, and have a lot of fun being astronauts. Right before the break, we'll make a present for our parents, go on a gingerbread-man hunt, make ornaments for our trees, and just get excited for the holiday when we meet Santa. It will be a great beginning to the year and we will be ready to see what January brings.

Parents: Keep working at home on recognizing the alphabet letters and numbers 1-5, counting to 10, colors, and writing names. Thanks for all of your hard work!

Miss Lynette

Kindergarten

Happy Holidays! We have been learning so much in our Kindergarten classes! We have finished learning our letters and are moving into letter-sound relationships and hearing beginning sounds in words! Please work with your child at home with letter identification and letter sounds!

In Writing, we have learned to

think about a story, draw a picture and start writing the sounds we hear in our words. Please have your child write stories at home and encourage them to talk about their story with you!

We have finished our Pattern Unit in Math! Help your child to notice patterns in the environment. We are starting number writing from numbers 11 – 20 and continuing to count and represent numbers with objects.

Kindergarten Reading strategy for the next few months is our friend, "Sammy the Snake, Sound out the beginning sound of a tricky word", "Cluey Kangaroo, Ask yourself what would make sense?". As your child is reading at home, please have them stop on the tricky word and support them in developing these 2 important skills – sound out the beginning letter and ask what would make sense! Read, read, read at home AND mark it in the homework folder! We are still striving to earn prizes for reading everyday!

Thanks for all your wonderful support in helping our Kindergarten children succeed!

Fabulous First Grade

In November, the students built on the math concepts they learned in October. They increased their number sense by making combinations of numbers up to ten in many different ways and began making an addition book with all the combinations for the numbers from 5 to 10.

In Science, we have been talking about the four different seasons and the differences between them. We will begin learning about mapping skills for Social Studies next.

The first graders have also been

reading up a storm with their teachers. They just keep getting better and better. We have also become good at finding rhyming words in our reading. We still need to read 20 minutes every night and have our parents sign our planners to get credit for reading at home. Thanks for all of you that read with your children every night.

We have also started practicing for our Christmas program, which will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. So mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!

Second Grade

In Math this month, we will be moving deeper into adding and subtracting two digit numbers. In second grade we focus on understanding the math behind the addition and subtraction. We want the students to be able to show how they figured out the answer and why their method works. You will see your child using different strategies and not adding in the traditional way. This is what we want! The students should be using a method that they understand and can be accurate with every time.

Writing time will focus on persuasive letters. We will be teaching the students to have reasons behind their desires. Also, to prove to someone through a letter that what they want, they should get. Don't be surprised if you get a letter from your child asking for something from you.

Reading continues to be a big push for us. We want all students to make a year of progress and be on grade level. Please have your child read over the winter break! We will be testing when we come back and we would hate to see any student fall behind because they did not read for two and a half weeks. Thank you for all

you do! Have a great holiday season!

Third Grade

We have been studying hard in 3rd grade!

In Math, we are still working on 3-digit addition and subtraction. It's been a long unit and has really worked our brains! Our next math unit is about perimeter, angles and area. We will be continuing this unit into December.

In Science, we just started learning about simple machines. In Social Studies, we have been studying about indigenous people and ancient civilizations. Coming up we will be studying about the Incas and their culture. In Character Education, the focus for December will be on respect and caring. We will continue to work on Reader's Theater. These activities help us with out dramatic reading and expression. We also will be learning drama techniques to help prepare us for our play.

Please help us by reminding your children to do their homework and turn it in. If your child has a low grade on their report card in reading or math, there is a good chance he or she did not return their homework. Reading homework should be recorded in the planners. Don't forget that they should be bringing their planners every day! It is homework too!

Thanks for letting us teach your children!

Ms. Brunsvik
Mrs. Riddle
Mrs. Rutter

Fourth Grade

Dear Parents and Students,
As December comes around,

we have some fun things planned. Your students will be finishing up their personal narratives that they've been working on since the beginning of the year. They also will be learning about shapes and measurement in our next math unit, which is all about Geometry.

During Social Studies we'll be doing activities all about the pioneers who settled Utah. It will be a quick few weeks before the holiday break, but full of fun and learning.

Happy Holidays!

The Fourth Grade Teachers

Fifth Grade

It is hard to believe December is already here! We are so excited about the progress that each of your students have made. We hope you will encourage your student to finish the year strong by continuing to complete homework on time and reading every night for 30 minutes. Thank-you so much for all you do to help your child be successful.

This month we will continue to delve into fractions, percents, and decimals and begin adding and subtracting them. We have been excited about our units on the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We are also looking forward to an exciting opportunity to reenact the creation of the constitution of the United States.

Coming up we have cross-country skiing and Hope of America. Both activities will require some funds from home so you can all prepare now for the added expense. Look for more information regarding these activities in the next month.

We are excited for this next month!

Mrs. Cross and Miss Jack

Sixth Grade

There is so much to celebrate in December! Months of getting to know each other and learning how to best interact lead us to success. We have high hopes for this month and the rest of the year. We know that December can be a busy and stressful month for many, there are so many activities and appointments to fulfill. Knowing this however, we hope that you will still take a moment everyday to express your love and admiration to your hard working kids. So many of them have already overcome so much this year. We are very proud of their efforts and excited for their further success.

We will be attending "Christmas Around the World" at BYU on the second of December. We know this is a great way to learn and embrace the traditions of the world during this wonderful holiday season. Your children make us so proud as we are out in the public, they are respectful, follow directions and take great pride in who they are and who they represent.

Winter break starts on December 19 and we come back on January 3, 2012. In the meantime we are starting a new, and very exciting math unit. Bits and Pieces II teaches us all about fractions. As you are making holiday cookies, baking pies or cutting ribbon for your presents there will be many opportunities to use fractions with your kids. Real life application is priceless and essential for their learning. It will be so empowering for them to use addition, subtraction, division and multiplication of fractions and show you how much they have learned.

We love and appreciate you, may your holiday season be filled with peace, joy and hope.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hainsworth and Miss Stone

PTA News

We would like to thank everybody that participated in the chocolate bar sale. We did GREAT!! We made enough money to be able to do some wonderful things for our teachers and children this year and next! Thank you for all of your support! We will be having our next PTA meeting on December 9th at 10 am. Please come and give us your input. If you haven't joined PTA yet, please do!! It is only \$5! Thank you!

Special Ed

ASD Special Education Parent Night

The ASD's special education department invites you to attend monthly special education parent nights beginning January 19, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 in the media center of Shelley Elementary School (602 N. 200 W. in American Fork). Our goal is to develop partnerships with parents in our school community through promoting awareness, offering education, and providing support. We hope to foster opportunities for positive communication with parents of students who are currently receiving special education services or who may be referred for special education assessments. The first session will provide a general overview of the district's special education program including information about special education assessments,

placement, and services. The remainder of the special education parent nights will cover topics identified by parents in the first session as areas of need or interest. Also, please save the date for February 23rd. The dates for the remainder of the monthly meetings will be determined at a later date after receiving feedback from parents. Please come join us! (Refreshments will be provided.)

ASD Special Education Community Calendar

The ASD's special education department is excited to announce the special education community calendar. This community calendar was created with the intent to connect our parents of students with disabilities to community events and resources. There are many parents and non-profit organizations that have established wonderful support groups and activities that we are happy to advertise. Please check the calendar frequently as new events are added weekly. Visit the Alpine School District special education website at <http://alpineschools.org/departments/special-education>. Under the **Parent** section on the website, click on **Special Education Community Calendar**.

If there are events you would like to add to the website calendar, please contact us at 801-610-8545 and let us know how we can assist you.

Disclaimer: Any fees associated with events advertised on the website are to be paid by attendee(s). It is not the responsibility of Alpine School District to reimburse or provide payment for attendance to any event.