



December 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

The Christmas holidays are quickly approaching, and Christmas is only **24** days away. We also have a lot going on in school. Here's a quick addition to the calendar I'm also sending home:

1. **Santa's Secret Shop, for our class, is Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**. We are scheduled for 1:30-2:10. A letter and planning envelope will be sent home with your child, to help you and your child with planning this spending spree!

2. Here's a **stocking stuffer idea** for every third grader: a watch with a *face*- not a digital watch, but an old-fashioned analog watch with hands, for learning to tell time! And an idea for a Christmas present: a globe. Many have expressed much interest in our classroom globe, as I do a lot with geography, atlases, and locating places (countries, cities, oceans...) that we read about. Our world is an interesting place! Multiplication and division flash cards too. Our class is *so excited* about multiplication!!!



3. **Another great gift idea- books!** I'm sending home a book order today (Lucky); any orders will be due by Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, in order that they'll be delivered in time for Christmas gift-giving. I'll even be an elf; if you place an order that you want to be a surprise, just write me a note and attach it to the order form. I'll double bag it and keep the books here for you to pick up.



4. For our **Christmas Party** in the afternoon of Thursday, December 21st, we will *not* be having a gift exchange between children. Too many feelings have been hurt in the past, and there are always several children who don't participate and then feel very badly. In addition, there are a lot of ways in which families are giving to help other families, such as the Food Pantry, our traditional mitten tree, community-based giving, and more. Putting things in perspective, we are all very fortunate with what we have. Instead of exchanging gifts, we'll make it a special day, with a movie, perhaps a craft project, and our party snacks. And I will have a little something for each child. If you signed up to provide a treat for the Christmas party, I'll be sending a reminder home! (We'll have our Christmas party on the *day before the last day*, just in case of a snow day. It actually happened one year, a snow day on the last day, and it just wasn't as much fun (yippee) having a Christmas party in January.)

5. **Math: Chapter 3 (Multiplication and Division Patterns)** NOW we have begun multiplication and division in earnest. NOW would be a great time to begin working on memorizing multiplication facts (and fact families) at home.

7. **Mini Field Trip next Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**- We're going to the High School at 8:15 with Mrs. Borrello's class to sit in on a middle school band rehearsal on the stage. Not to spoil the surprise for the children, this has to do with our reading story next week. We'll be returning to the elementary school by 9:30.

8. **Progress reports** for the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will be coming home next Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

8. Finally, there are lots **more photos up on our webpages!** Enjoy!



Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Faxlanger*