



November 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

I'm sending home the November Lucky and Holiday Gift Books book orders today. Books make wonderful **Christmas presents** and **stocking stuffers**- I thought maybe you could get some Christmas shopping done! (Only 54 days till Christmas!) Book orders and payments are due by next Wednesday, November 8th.

**UNICEF**-This year, grades pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade were invited to participate in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. Our class actually sponsors this for the elementary school. We are collecting the boxes and will be counting some of the money (practice!). The UNICEF boxes have begun arriving and I'll be posting the total amount raised on our website.

**Math**- We've started learning about what multiplication *is*, and the children are very enthusiastic. Much of the learning done in addition and subtraction carries over to multiplication, as does the associative, commutative, and identity properties. The children have been drawing, or modeling, groups of objects, and have just begun making arrays. We're reading  $5 \times 6$  as "5 groups of 6" (which incidentally looks different from "6 groups of 5", though they have the same product). Ask your child to explain that to you! This chapter is beginning to familiarize the children with some facts, but at this time, they do not need to memorize, even though they have incidentally learned some facts already. The next chapter will be "understanding what division is", then fact memorization begins. This would be a perfect time to buy multiplication flash cards and have them ready!

**Reading**- I'm very happy that the students are really enjoying the reading selections in our reading book. Many of them are non-fiction, which is where our emphasis must be. Last week's story, "The Sun, the Wind, and the Rain", overlapped wonderfully with social studies and science, while this week's story, "Dream, Wolf" is a Native American legend. NYS standards require that the children read a selection several times and become very familiar with it, then be able to give examples from the text that support their claim, or opinion. Sometimes, these examples are called "evidence", which I've compared to "proof". If you can find the evidence in the reading passage to support your answer, then you know the answer must be correct. For much of their reading work, they must use the text while doing assignments. And all of this must be done using complete sentences with correct punctuation and grammar! Therefore, you can expect to see your child bring home the reading book at least once during the week to re-read stories or work on an assignment.

A few parents have asked if it's all right for their children to bring their work home for them to see, then hand it in in the morning, and a few have TOLD their children to do that. It's fine! It's great! The children know that as long as they hand it in the next morning completed, it's not late. I applaud you for your interest and in desiring your child to do their very best (unhurried) work.

**School Supplies** – Please check with your child to be sure he or she has a good supply of pencils, erasers, and paper.

Remember to check our website from time to time- there's always something new! [www.forestville.com](http://www.forestville.com), then click on "teachers". I have many new photos up, as well as our "UNICEF" page, a students' writing page (with UNICEF award-winning essays, spelling lists, calendars, newsletters, etc.



Reminder- Report cards will be given to you (parents) at your parent-teacher conference. **Please note: I welcome the student at his or her conference. I believe it's beneficial to them to hear what we have to say about them.** If it's praise, great! If there are things that they need to work on to improve, great! So, I hope you bring your child! Parent teacher conferences are on the three half days- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) coming up in about two weeks. I will be sending home a reminder of your day and time.

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Faxlanger*