

January 5, 2018!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2018! I hope everyone had a nice, relaxing, and fun break. Back at school, we are seriously winding our way through multiplication and division, and the children are so enthusiastic! The way to maintain that enthusiasm is to have them become fluent - quick and accurate - with the facts. If your child was lucky enough to get flash cards from Santa, please encourage them to practice their facts daily (up to  $10 \times 10$ ). Those who didn't should be writing their facts and reciting them at home. The memorization of multiplication facts is absolutely *vital* to succeeding in math. We are also working on the facts daily in school. (The sooner your child becomes fluent, the easier he or she will find division!)



In a week or two, we will begin the **Multiplication Masters Club**, which, combined with frequent timed tests, encourages the children to both learn and improve on their fact fluency and speed. Multiplication Bingo is also on the horizon, and is a lot of fun!

In Reading, this week's story was Pecos Bill, which is a tall tale play and is a lot of fun to role play. Some of the children can even "talk cowboy" now! I'm working with all of these reading selections and more to prepare the children for the Common Core State Test this Spring. Writing is a large part of the ELA test, and we're practicing our writing skills daily. (The NYS ELA test is in April and the Math is in May.)

Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> is Martin Luther King Jr Day, and there is no school that day.

I am frequently adding to my website. Continue to refer to it for monthly newsletters, spelling lists, our classroom calendar, and *loads* of photos.

And last, but certainly not least, winter sickness season is here, and we're seeing all kinds of "bugs". We've talked about washing hands frequently, for about 20 seconds (or singing "Happy Birthday" while washing), and how to avoid spreading germs. If your child is out for more than a day, you may wish to pick up work or arrange to have a sibling bring it home, so that your child doesn't get too far behind, and it alleviates boredom too! If this is your plan, just send me an email or call the office as early as possible in the day, and I'll get it ready for you. Thank you!



Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Faxlanger*