



December News

December Character Trait: Kindness

November came and went very fast. I know that December is a very busy month for everyone with Christmas festivities and shopping!

With Christmas approaching, children become more excited which tends to affect their behavior. We have already been having some behavior issues in the classroom. December is a short and very busy month in Kindergarten with Report Card Checklists as well as the Christmas Program and practice. It is imperative that your child be focused on what we are covering in the classroom so that they will be prepared for the January NWEA testing as well as the second grading-period Report Card Checklist. We are also introducing new skills, which may be covered on our January NWEA testing. If your child has been bringing home yellow and/or red apples, please speak with your child about the importance of good behavior at school. This not only includes the classroom, but special classes, lunch, recess, restroom, and hallway behavior. A child's misbehavior not only effects their education but the education of the other children in the classroom as well. Thank you for your help!!

Another issue that I am seeing in the classroom is students hurrying to complete their work. This results in work that is not completed correctly or neatly. I have started taking recess time from those students that are hurrying to complete their work. They are having to redo pages during their recess time. Please speak with your child about the importance of taking time to complete their work correctly and neatly.

With the fact that cold weather is upon us, I find that several children do not know how to zip their coat. It takes a great deal of time to zip coats for those that do not know how at recess and dismissal time. If your child does not know how to zip their coat and/or tie their shoes, please practice with them at home. These are both skills that children at Kindergarten level should already know how to do.

Thank you for sending snacks on your child's assigned snack day. **Please remember that each child is to bring a snack and a drink.** It is unfair to those parents that faithfully send in snacks and drinks for everyone not to follow the same procedure. We were doing very well at the beginning of school with everyone providing a snack and a drink on

their child's snack day, but recently we have had some days where snacks and/or drinks were not provided. Please be sure to check the monthly snack calendar and be sure to send snacks and drinks on your child's snack day. Also, please do not send big jugs of juice because I do not always have cups in the classroom, and cups of juice can be spilled easily!

With Winter fast approaching, I wanted to let you know about some eLearning procedures in case of snow days. If we miss a day due to inclement weather, we will be sending home an eLearning packet the day we return to school. This packet will contain the work that is to be completed for the snow day. The work should be completed promptly and returned to school. If we miss more than one day, a packet will be sent home for each of the days missed.

We will be completing the final Report Card Checklist for this semester before Christmas Break. Please review the last Report Card which we discussed at Parent/Teacher Conferences. If your child was not able to master all of the items on that Report Card, please work with your child at home on those skills as well as the new skills for this grading period. We practice literacy and math skills daily, but there is only so much time in our school day. We already have several coconuts in the hallway for students that knew all of their upper and lower case letters and/or sounds, but we are hoping to add a large number of coconuts to our tree in the hallway for both letter recognition and letter sounds once the report cards are completed in December.

We are sending home two Santa letter forms. One is for the Clay City News (white page,) and this same letter will be sent to the Brazil Times as well. The Santa face letter is for our hallway. I would like for you to complete the Santa face form and return it to school on Monday, December 2nd. Please have your child color the face and hat of the Santa letter the color of Santa's hat. These will be placed in the hallway. Please complete the letter (white page) with your child and return it to school by December 6th. The letters can say the same thing or something different. That is up to you and your child!

Clay City Elementary will be opening the Santa Shop from December 9th – 13th. There will be more information sent home regarding the Santa Shop in the near future. The Santa Shop offers various items for sale that the students can purchase for their family members for Christmas. The students can find gifts to buy at a wide range of prices. If you chose to have your child do some Christmas shopping here at school, please complete the form that will be sent home with the Santa Shop information letting us know who your child wants to buy for and the

maximum amount to spend on each one. There are parent workers at the Santa Shop that will be assisting the students as they select their items.

Our Christmas Music program will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Kindergarten students will be performing two songs in that program. After our part in the program, we will return to the classroom while the other classes perform. At the close of the program, all students will return to the gym as a “walk through” for the final song. Students love to have their parents/grandparents come to watch them perform. They also love to have their parents pick them up at the close of the program. If you wish to take your child home after the afternoon program, you will need to come to the classroom to sign your child out after the final song at the end of the program. I will have a sign-out sheet in the classroom for both the afternoon and evening programs.

Our Christmas gift exchange and party will be on **Thursday, December 19th**, this year. We will be drawing names this week, and the name that your child drew will be in your child's purple folder on Tuesday. Girls drew a girl's name and boys drew a boy's name. The price limit is no more than \$3.00. Please send the wrapped gifts beginning on Monday, December 16th and no later than Wednesday, December 18th. That way, I can be sure that each child has a gift. We do not want anyone to be without a gift! I have parents signed up to send snacks for our party. I will be sending reminder notes home in December.

We are planning to have a Pajama Party on Friday, December 20th. Students can wear pajamas to school that day. If pajamas are lightweight, students can wear pajamas over regular clothes, as we will have regular recess outside; weather permitting. We will watch the movie *Polar Express* and enjoy milk and cookies. I will be sending more information home soon.

I am amazed at how many of the children can already read books on their own and some of those above Kindergarten grade-level! I have purchased several books from the Scholastic Book Clubs for the baskets on our tables. I have children who come to me saying that they can read one or more of the books in the baskets. This is so rewarding to see the progress the children are making!

The complexity of the readers from our reading series will be increasing so please continue to read with your child at home each day. The more your child reads, the more fluent their reading becomes. Also, after we return from Christmas Break, we will continue to send home Book Bags. At some point, these will be different sets of books from the ones sent home first semester. These can be counted for the Pizza Hut Book-It. Please be sure to return the books as soon as they are read so that I can

send them home with another child. I hope you and your child will enjoy reading the new books! Thank you for encouraging your child to read at home!☺

As a reminder, those students that complete all six months of the Pizza Hut Book-It Program will attend the Pizza Hut Book-It Party held during lunch in May. Most students are returning the Book-It forms, but we have some that have never returned the first form. I encourage you to read with/to your child so that the forms can be completed and returned to school. Four books per month are required for this program, and the Book Bag books can be counted toward the four books. All you need to do is complete the form that we send home each month with the titles of four books that your child has read to you or you have read to your child, return the form to school, and I will send home a certificate good for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. These can also be redeemed at Pizza Gallery. Should you lose the form, please write the titles of the four books and your child's name on a piece of paper, and return it to school with your child. Only those students that have returned all six forms will be allowed to participate in the pizza party. As you can imagine students do become upset at the end of the school year when they are not allowed to attend the pizza party! (The last two years we have had pizza from the Pizza Gallery.) Please help your child to complete this task. If you are unsure of the number of forms your child has returned, please send me a note, and I will let you know the number of forms that have been returned. This program started in October. At Christmas Break, your child should have returned three Book-It forms to school.

Please remember to save the Box Tops for Education. These can be found on many items such as Kleenex (brand name), cereal, flour, breakfast bars, etc. Please cut out the box tops and send them to school with your child's name on the paper or baggie. If our class turns in the most box tops for each grading period, we will receive a pizza party!! For those of you who do not know, we won the Pizza Party last time. Thank you for saving the Box Tops and helping us win the party. Thank you also to the PTO for buying the pizza from Pizza Gallery for us!

In closing, I want to say that our first semester has been very rewarding. It is so heartwarming to see the progress that each child has made. I hope that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Christmas Break! I will see everyone back at Clay City Elementary on January 6, 2020!

Mrs. Collins

Dates to remember

December 2nd – Santa Face Letters Returned to School for Bulletin Board

December 6th – Santa Letters for Clay City News and Brazil Times Returned
To School

December 9th - 13th – Santa Shop

December 10th - Christmas Music Program 1:30 and 6:30 in Gym

December 16th – 18th – Bring Wrapped Gifts for Gift Exchange

December 19th – Christmas Gift Exchange and Christmas Party

December 20th – Pajama Party & Polar Express Movie

December 20th – Christmas Break Begins at End of School Day

January 6th – Second Semester Begins - Students Return to School
from Christmas Break

Kindergarten Skills That Will Be Covered During December

Literacy Skills:

Recognize and print all upper and lower case letters
Recognition of all letter sounds
Follow words from left to right
Distinguish letters from words
Recognize sentences are made up of separate words
Recognize and produce rhyming words
Orally blend and segment words into syllables
Orally state the beginning sounds in 3-letter words
Orally state the final sounds in 3-letter words
Demonstrate accuracy and fluency when reading
Read common high-frequency words by sight
Classify objects into categories
Identify characters, setting, and events in a story
Identify the parts of a book (ex. title, author, illustrations)
Write for specific purposes
Write moving left to right
Use words and pictures to write a simple story
Reads & writes first name
Reads & writes last name
Recognize 11 colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, white, pink, & gray)

Social Studies:

Describe places in the school and community

Science:

Describe one thing you taste, smell, touch, see, & hear

Math:

Count orally by ones (goal 100 by third grading period)
Count orally by tens
Recognize and write numbers 0 to 10
Write numbers 0 - 10
Match numbers to objects with a written numeral to 10
Compare groups of objects and identify greater than, less than, or equal to
Two-dimensional shapes: square, circle, oval, triangle, rectangle, hexagon, diamond
Create and extend patterning